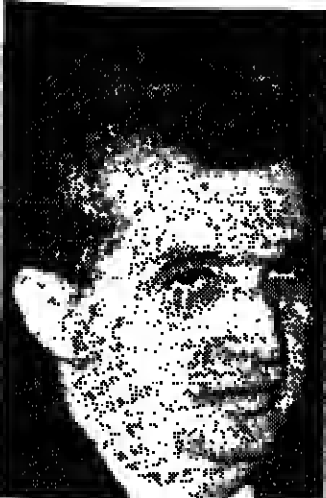


A new turn of the screw



CEAUȘESCU—in search of a single concept

Vienna, July 13

President Ceaușescu today ordered the Rumanian Communist Party to take direct charge of the nation's culture and to eliminate everything that does not serve "Communist education."

In a speech to party activists, the President filled in details of a party decree prescribing a major ideological clamp on the arts. The directive comes at a time when most East European regimes are easing their cultural surveillance. Diplomats in Rumania said Mr Ceaușescu, who is also First Secretary, was clearly unhappy about the creeping increase of Western influence in Rumanian television, films and books.

To counteract this, he said: "It is necessary to strengthen the party leadership and guidance of the whole cultural-artistic life of this country."

"There must be a single concept and ideology — the revolutionary ideology and concept of the working class. The arts must serve a single purpose — the Socialist, Communist education."

Specifically, he called on party leaders to approve personally any imported film and any play staged in the country. The party "must take over entirely... the whole educational activity."

"We cannot admit radio and television programmes which by their content do not actively contribute to the Communist, patriotic, revolutionary education of the youth, of the people."

Mr Ceaușescu said the Government "has the right to interfere in literature and in the fine arts. Also in music, to admit only what it considers to harmonise with socialism." Freedom of creation had to give way to this right.

To those echelons of the party who feared that the rigid restatement of Marxist orthodoxy amounted to "a reversion to the past," he said, "I don't know what they mean."

Understandably so, because Rumania for all its tightrope walking in foreign diplomacy has for some time been bounded by an inflexible set of party guidelines over expression at home.

New fears of epidemics in Indian camps

New Delhi, July 13

The United Nations Children's Fund believes there is imminent danger of malaria and diphtheria among the 6,700,000 East Pakistani refugees in India. A report by the organisation's office in India also said severe cases of malnutrition, particularly among children, were increasing.

Arrangements had to be made urgently to distribute supplementary rations of protein-rich food among at least 1,500,000 mothers and children. The major problem was lack of transport.

Unless steps were taken to tackle the problem, an extremely grave situation would develop "in weeks."

The other major priority for the refugee camps was to improve the water supply and sanitary conditions, which the report said, defied description. The cholera outbreak in May and June was not mentioned.

On the credit side, the problem of shelter for refugees had been largely dealt with by airlifting supplies. But the water and sanitation difficulty, with the threat of disease, had replaced it as first priority.

The report, by Mr John Crun, deputy director of Unicef's South Central Asian region, illustrated the extent of the task by conditions at the camp at Hashabad. A sign there says: "Population 55,000. Latrines 36."

Malnutrition was most prevalent in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura. Most of the children affected arrived in that condition from East Pakistan.

Unicef had acquired 5,000 tons of a high-protein food called Balabar, but distribution was inadequate. At least another 400 trucks and 600 Jeeps were required.

It was becoming increasingly difficult to transport food by road and rail from Calcutta to states further east. A partial airlift from Calcutta was needed to fly about 200 tons of food a day. An earlier Unicef report said an operation several times the size of the Berlin airlift would be needed.

An account was given of a visit by an official to Punjab. It was pointed out that the rice allocation of about 4½ lb. per week for refugees was higher than the quota for the local population. — Reuters.

The State Government's move followed the refusal of the Queensland Royal National Association to allow the main oval of Brisbane's exhibition ground to be used for the Springboks' three games scheduled to be played here on July 24, 27, and 31.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said other possible Brisbane venues were unsafe for the protection of the public, the players, and the police.

He said that following the refusal to make the ground available, the Government decided to "appropriate the ground for the use of the authorities controlling the game." Meanwhile, the Springboks' rested at Orange, New South Wales, after beating a country side 19-3. — Reuters.

Picture set broken

A painting by the 15th century Neapolitan artist, Colantonio, thought to be worth £33,000, has been stolen from a church in Naples. It depicts a ship in a storm being saved by St Vincent and is one of a set of twelve.

£100,000 aid

The West German evangelical church aid organisation, Bread for the World, is to give over £100,000 in aid to developing countries. The money will be used on 69 projects in 40 countries.

Dr Kaunda rebuked

Lusaka, July 13

President Kaunda of Zambia was attacked today by student leaders over his handling of the arms for South Africa issue. He was accused in a letter sent to him by 10 officials of the Zambia University Students' Union of being inconsistent in his dealings with South Africa.

The letter followed a ban by Dr Kaunda on student demonstrations over France's decision to allow South Africa to manufacture Mirage jet fighters under licence.

Dr Kaunda had appealed to his people to leave the matter in his hands after 1,000 university students stormed the French Embassy, last week. — Reuters.



A family of refugees from East Pakistan walking through the wet streets of the Indian town of Bangann on their way in a refugee camp

White South blinds OAU to need for economic cooperation

By DAVID MARTIN

Now that the noisy emotion and rhetoric of the latest summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity has subsided, and the leaders have gone home without so much as a hint of a coup d'état in their absence, it is appropriate to take stock and to consider future prospects.

The very name Organisation of African Unity is a misnomer. It is an organisation "for" unity and not one "of" unity as the title claims. Differences of ideology, culture, and policy abound among the 41 member States. Unity on any subject is virtually impossible. Negative policies are more common than positive action. Yet this does not give justification to the glib contention of the cynics that the OAU is no more than a talking shop which should be wound up.

There is throughout the African continent an underlying spirit of unity — a common identity deriving from common poverty, colonial heritage, and colour. The need to liberate African brothers still dominated by racial minorities is a conscious part of African life. Formulas for freedom may vary and leaders may openly scorn the freedom fighters, opting instead for a dialogue with Pretoria. But at the end of it all, political and economic freedom remains the goal.

Africa's preoccupation with the white South has served to distract attention from the need for development between the

independent States. At Addis Ababa, during the dialogue debate, one of the Francophone Foreign Ministers, after walking out of the conference, tried for a day and a half without success to telephone his President for instructions. Finally he went to the French Embassy to transmit his messages via Paris. A decade after the bulk of countries attained independence, communications are still ineffective between Addis Ababa and many of the West African countries. French diplomatic channels remain an acceptable means of transmitting confidential messages.

The 15-point agenda for the summit in Addis Ababa did not include a single item on economic cooperation. But the need for increased trade, communications, and regionally located industries with multinational markets, either to process raw materials for export to the developed nations, or as manufacturers of goods which the demand of a single country cannot justify, remains a crucial aspect of African development.

In an interview immediately before the summit, Tanzania's President, Dr Nyerere, told me: "The OAU must not become a talking shop. But there will be a lot to the criticism if we do not take our objectives seriously."

Some delegations at Addis Ababa — and these were not just recognised "reactionaries" — felt that Nyerere himself went too far in a pamphlet which was secretly distributed at the end of the conference and which challenged the right of continued membership for countries like Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, and Uganda.

Nyerere's argument was clear cut. All that was required under the OAU charter to become a member was independence, effective control and membership of the United Nations. South Africa complied with all of these prerequisites yet no one suggested she should be allowed to join.

While Nyerere did not specifically attack by name the proponents of dialogue with Pretoria, his pamphlet, submitted only as a point of discussion, would seem to have been a cudgel to belabour them, which ultimately proved unnecessary.

It was on the question of the dialogue that the Ministerial meeting and summit proved most decisive with the anti-dialogue block obtaining a two-thirds majority for their declaration totally opposing any exchange, and stressing that any action must be in consultation with the liberation movements and within the OAU framework. Even the militants were surprised by the margin of victory.

Predictably the Ivory Coast President, Mr Houphouët-Boigny, who started the whole thing, has said he will not be

Check on car firms' claims

Washington, July 13

THE AMERICAN Federal Trade Commission today ordered the four major US car manufacturers, and three foreign companies, to submit documents in support of their advertising claims.

The seven firms concerned are the General Motors Corporation, the Ford Motor Company, the Chrysler Corporation, American Motors, Volkswagen of America Inc, the Toyota Motor Company Ltd, and the Nissan Motor Corporation.

The trade commission has plans to summarise the documents when firms submit them. Its order was in line of a ruling, recently announced, that the commission intended to require advertisers to furnish documentation of claims made.

Consumer groups have long demanded that advertisers back their advertising claims. The commission said that it sought, within 60 days, documentary support of claims regarding the safety, performance, quality, and comparative prices of cars. — UPI.

'Pollute and pay' study in US

From RICHARD SCOTT

Washington, July 13

One of the most controversial anti-pollution proposals is tax polluters according to the amount of their pollution. The proposed legislation has not yet been submitted to Congress, but this particular proposal, now under study in the White House, has already been strongly criticised both by environmentalists and industrialists.

The former, anti-pollution zealots, who tended to regard the proposed tax as a licence to pollute, are now coming round to support it. They are doing so because they realise that in practice it is likely to be far more effective as an incentive to curb pollution than are the controls which they have favoured and which so far have not been very effective. The industrialists who would be subject to the tax, are busily developing a lobby in Congress to oppose it.

The Administration thinking apparently is that an industry which pumps sulphur into the air, for instance, should be taxed so much per pound of sulphur emitted. Industries concerned would probably find it cheaper to take steps to prevent pollution.

If approved by Congress, similar tax would then presumably be imposed on concerns which emitted other noxious gases, and eventually to everything which pollutes, including liquid and solid waste. One of the major admitted problems of the scheme is the high cost and difficulty of monitoring the various plants and measuring the extent of their pollution.

No habeas corpus for newsmen

Singapore, July 13

The Singapore High Court today dismissed applications for writs of habeas corpus submitted by four executives of a Chinese-language newspaper who were gaoled without trial under the country's Internal Security Act.

All four were arrested at May 2. Two-year detention orders handed to them on May 22 said they had used the newspaper "Nanyang Siang Pau" to glorify communism, call attention to the more unsavoury aspects of Singapore life, and stir up Chinese chauvinism.

The newspapermen concerned are Lee Mau Seng, former general manager, Shue Sudding Tung Ta Chang, editor-in-chief, Ly Singko, senior leader writer, and Kerk Leong Seng, public relations officer.

Today's decision by the Chief Justice of the High Court can be contested in Singapore's Court of Appeal.

In London last month, the annual conference of the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU) called for the release of immediate trial of the prisoners. — Reuters.

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HOME NEWS

Guilty Culver will
blow
dissident GIs

By JOHN WINDSOR

Captain Thomas Culver, of the United States Air Force, was found guilty by a court-martial at Lakenheath, Suffolk, yesterday, of taking part in a demonstration against Air Force regulations and soliciting two other Servicemen to participate. He will probably be sentenced today. The maximum penalty is a total of four years' labour and a dishonourable discharge.

Anti-Vietnam War movement in which he has been active, wept in the courtroom.

As the eight-man military jury returned its verdict after nearly four hours. The decision is a blow to anti-war GIs serving abroad, who had hoped that an acquittal would open up possibilities of legal public protest.

Culver (32), a military lawyer, said at the 48 Tactical Fighter Wing base after the verdict: "I would not be surprised if my conviction is followed by a real, live, unquestionable demonstration by Servicemen. It will fortify the PEACE group. They will become more resolute. People trying to exercise their basic rights will be more committed."

He said he would appeal to the Court of Review and, if necessary, to the Court of Military Appeals, the highest military court. "This is an important test case which raises many constitutional issues. I had hoped to be acquitted so that any Servicemen who wanted to petition in a similar form, even in large numbers, would be able to do so."

"If my case goes to the Court of Military Appeals I hope it will force the court to adopt civilian standards. The military system has never taken the First Amendment to the Constitution straight on."

His defence counsel, Captain Frank Wesson, claimed that the crucial Air Force Regulation 35-15 tried to protect the First Amendment—the bedrock of our Bill of Rights—which gave the right of assembly and to petition Congress without fear of reprisal.

Captain Franklin Luna, prosecuting, claimed that the events planned and carried out by the PEACE organisation on May 31 were not simply the pre-arranged of a petition, but a continuous demonstration. The meeting of Servicemen at the Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, the presentation of an anti-Vietnam War petition at the American Embassy and at the Houses of Parliament, and a "rock session" in Victoria Park which followed were "planned, organised and aimed to get attention. You can't change a tiger by calling it a lamb."

The defence quoted from a speech by President Nixon to a graduation class of the Air Force Academy, in which he said: "I believe that every man in uniform is a citizen first and a Serviceman second and we must resist any attempt to separate the defenders from the defended."

The judge, Colonel Carl Abrams, said in his summing up: "Even if the court concludes beyond reasonable doubt that the presentation was a demonstration, if the accused was honestly and reasonably labouring under the mistaken belief that it was not, he cannot be convicted of either offence."

The defence said that a PEACE band distributed on the day of the petition had said: "This will not be a demonstration—there will be no placards, no buttons, just a group of GIs presenting a petition. We have a constitutional, guaranteed right to petition the Government for the redress of grievances and that is all we will be doing."

Captain Luna produced a circular from Captain Culver's superior officer, Major Franklin Flinton, which pointed out that in the major's opinion the planned events were unlawful under AFR 35-15, and set out the penalties for participating. Captain Culver's signature appeared with six others on the circular.

On the soliciting charge, Captain Culver was said to have handed the document to two Servicemen, soliciting them to take part in the activities of the PEACE group.

Captain Culver added after the trial that if he were dishonourably discharged the California Bar Association might strike him off. He had hoped to return to Britain as a civilian defence lawyer working on American military bases.

He and his two defence counsel stood before the president of the jury, Colonel Eugene Traendly, and saluted. He said that it had been decided by more than the two-thirds majority needed.

Captain Culver has been in the Service six years and served in Vietnam for a year between 1967 and 1968. He is a member of the Judge Advocate's Department and he served in Vietnam alongside the counsel who prosecuted him, two others who defended him, and his present immediate superior officer, who gave evidence against him.

Culver's supporters, page 11

Freight trains will run below part of a housing estate opened at Bow yesterday by Sir Desmond Plummer (foreground), Leader of the Greater London Council.

Organisations representing the mentally handicapped yesterday gave a restrained welcome to Sir Keith Joseph's forecast that the position of the mentally handicapped and their families would be transformed in the next 10 years. But they doubted whether local authorities could be encouraged to build alternative residential homes fast enough.

Sir Keith, as Secretary for Social Services, told the Commons on Monday that in a few years' time there would be no more mentally handicapped hospitals such as there are today. Conditions in some were "barbaric," both for patients and staff.

The National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, representing 35,000 parents, welcomed the Minister's frank confession of "barbaric" conditions and the allotting of £40 millions for hospitals, but felt that this sum would not be enough over the next four years. Moreover, half the money would probably be spent on upgrading existing hospitals.

The society was sceptical also about the effectiveness of leaving the building of alternative residential homes to local authorities, which had an abysmal record for acting on their own initiative in this field.

The National Association for Mental Health welcomed the Minister's statement, but thought it would need a dramatic acceleration in local authority programmes to secure enough alternative homes in the community.

CARE, another organisation for the mentally handicapped, said the Minister's "exciting promise" would need a tremendous amount of organisation to be fulfilled.

The National Association for Autistic Children retained a certain amount of scepticism about the Minister's optimistic forecast, and said all sorts of obstacles had to be overcome. Sir Keith, in his statement, was discussing the June White Paper on services for the mentally handicapped. The Government, he said, wanted the majority of the handicapped to live at home, but in the community there should be "homely homes" for them. He also envisaged less crowded hospitals with a higher ratio of staff to patients. He would be inviting all local authorities to draw up a 10-year programme for health and welfare services early next year.

V & G leak 'was not
the first' tribunal told

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

The insurance broker who is alleged to have leaked confidential documents on the affairs of Vehicle and General had seen similar documents before, relating to other companies, it was claimed yesterday.

The V and G tribunal was told yesterday at which the broker, Mr Alan Gordon, is said to have passed to the firm his internal minutes from the Department of Trade and Industry. Mr Bertram Hebblewhite, former general manager of V and G, said Mr Gordon mentioned the name of Falcon.

Mr Hebblewhite said that on November 2 or 3, Mr Gordon, from Essex, Surrey, telephoned to say that he had something of great importance which he wanted the company to see. Mr Hebblewhite said the company chairman, Mr Lawrence Kershaw, instructed him to invite Gordon to lunch. In fact, Mr Hebblewhite said, he saw Gordon in the Red Lion public house opposite V and G's headquarters at Bushey, Hertfordshire. There Gordon gave him a document to read.

"If it was genuine then it was obviously a copy of an official document," Mr Hebblewhite said.

white said. He was shown a photocopy of a minute by Mr David Steel, head of DTI Insurance Companies Department, to Mr Christopher Jardine, head of the DTI companies branch. He said that he thought the minute was the same.

Later Mr Cordoo met Mr Kershaw, at the V and G office, when the broker said he had seen similar documents before, relating to other insurance companies.

At the meeting at Bushey, Mr Gordon said he was concerned about the position of the company for the sake of his clients. "We disagreed with a number of suggestions contained in the document and pointed out to Gordon that the position of the company was improving rapidly," Mr Hebblewhite said.

He added in cross examination by Sir Elwyn Jones, representing V and G policy and shareholders, that Mr Kershaw had told Gordon that "the DTI was getting on to the company without good reason." Mr Hebblewhite said that he was confident in the future of the company, and bought 1,000 shares at 12s on November 12, after the meeting with Mr Gordon. On December 11 he arranged to buy another 1,000 shares at 10s, but had not received these when the company collapsed.

The Attorney General, Sir Peter Rawlinson, alleges that Mr Gordon was in financial difficulties with the company, and that he obtained the DTI documents from his employee Dennis Norgan, son of Mrs Rose Norgan, a photographer at the DTI. The Norgans and Mr Gordon sat together during yesterday's hearing at Church House, Westminster.

Mr Roy Daw, formerly responsible for credit control at V and G, said that during 1970 Mr Gordon was in arrears with his accounts. The former southern area manager, Mr Harold Budd, said that a threat of legal action against Mr Gordon for non-settlement of his account was made in October 1970, but he received no orders to pursue this threat.

The tribunal continues today.

Support for Sir Keith

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

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Misuse of
NHS beds
'rare'

By our own Reporter

The Patients' Association has been able to collect few instances of consultants misusing facilities of the National Health Service for the benefit of private patients.

The association, which represents the interests of NHS patients, has sent a memorandum to the Commons committee investigating alleged abuses of the Health Service. The association says that some patients are admitted to NHS beds earlier if they have had a private consultation first. It bases this charge on complaints both from patients and from medical auxiliaries, but admits: "We cannot make any assessment of the extent to which abuses occur."

It adds: "We are fully aware of the integrity, conscientiousness, and hard work of many consultants who combine private practice with NHS work."

The vague nature of these charges is not likely to be of much use, and it seems that the association's recommendations on preventing any future abuse and investigating complaints might be more helpful to Mrs Rennie Short and her colleagues on the committee.

The association says the Department of Health maintains that it is impossible to do sample checks to determine whether any people jump the queue. It argues that something is wrong with the organisation of hospitals if these allegations cannot be investigated. It further maintains that misuse of NHS facilities is being made easier because specific beds are not set aside for private patients, and because more outpatient treatment can be used on a private basis.

The association says the possibility of having a private bed without having private treatment "is very little known to the public and apparently depends on the consultant's willingness to cooperate. It may be mainly intended for patients from abroad. The arrangements presumably include earlier admission. The matter seems to be being made easier and requires investigation."

Dog attacks
three people

A 73-year-old woman was taken to hospital in a serious condition yesterday after being attacked by a sheepdog in Battersea, London. She is Mrs Ann Conway, of Vicarage Crescent, Battersea. The dog's owner, Mrs Mary Scott, who went to Mrs Conway's rescue, was also bitten and so was Constable Christopher Facey, aged 23, who went to help both women.

All three were taken to St James Hospital, Balham. Mrs Scott and the constable were discharged. The dog has been destroyed.

£24,000 for nun

A nun has been left more than £24,000 in her sister's will. Mother Mary St Joseph is left with the £24,000 residue of the estate of Mrs Francesca Leadbitter, of Bury Road, Branksome Park, Poole.

Girl dies after 'jab'

A girl who had a measles vaccination, at 14 months, and two years later was blind, deaf, and like a cabbage, died from encephalitis due to the vaccination, the coroner at Croydon, Surrey, was told yesterday.

A verdict of misadventure was recorded on Carol Ann Servenson, the daughter of a chartered surveyor, of Deepdene Drive, Dorking.

The vaccination drug, Wellcovax Beckenham 31, had now been withdrawn, it was said. One million doses issued in 1968, the year before the baby became ill, with only one other reported case of complications.

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Issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

A 'radical change' in housing

and fall to reflect their responsibilities. "Local authorities will therefore have to meet from the rates some amounting to 10 per cent of the deficit in the years beginning 1972-73 and 25 per cent in 1975-76 and subsequent years. The whole amount of private rent allowances will be met by the Government until the end of 1975-76 and at least 80 per cent thereafter.

A new slum clearance subsidy is proposed which will meet for the first 15 years at least 75 per cent of the loss to the general rate fund incurred through slum clearance whatever the use of housing or otherwise—chosen for the cleared land.

It will be payable towards losses arising from 1971-72 onwards and will also cover expenditure on land acquired for slum clearance after March 31, 1968, if it had not been put to another use by the beginning of 1971-72.

The Government expects that once fair rents are introduced for council dwellings, housing authorities which built up their stock in earlier years will find a surplus in their housing revenue account.

Subsidy system

Council rents can no longer be altered to correspond to the state of the account or the authority's building programme. But authorities with historically high costs and continuing building programmes will have a deficit. A new subsidy system is to be introduced. The most powerful instrument to encourage new building will be the rising costs subsidy. This will be payable to any authority for the credit of its housing revenue account when the reckonable expenditure falling on the account for any financial year, exceeds the reckonable expenditure for the preceding year. The subsidy will settle down after 1974-75 to 75 per cent of the increase in expenditure.

On the other hand, local authorities which have surpluses in their housing revenue accounts after allowing for a working balance will have to pay them to the Secretary for the Environment. The amount they will get back will depend on the subsidies received during the year.

The effect, the White Paper says, will be to keep Exchequer subsidies for housing at about their present level. The national total of rate fund contributions to housing revenue accounts will be less. The scheme will give "a new deal to those local authorities whose needs are greatest."

"Fair Deal for Housing," Cmd. 478.

Leader comment, page 10

Martin Adeney

control has not moved since 1957 and is typically 65p a week outside London and £1.50 a week in London. "Many landlords of controlled tenancies are poorer than the tenants who enjoy a very low rent at the landlord's expense."

Rent control has accelerated deterioration of older houses. If the present system continued, this effort in removal of slums would be neutralised by the drift into slumdom of controlled dwellings.

Outside Birmingham, no help is given to tenants in need who have their rents increased.

The Government says it is giving fresh impetus to a policy of grants to help modernisation. Few controlled dwellings (less than 4,000 since 1969) have basic amenities have been improved. Landlords will now be able to go ahead as soon as a grant has been approved and to charge a rent increase whose annual rate is 12½ per cent of the amount spent on improvements (minus grant). Landlords will be able to apply for a fair rent and tenants will be able to apply for a rent allowance but not to object to improvement work on grounds of financial hardship.

Legal expenses

The Government is taking further steps, including enabling local authorities to pay the legal expenses of a council tenant buying a private dwelling.

The crux of the Government's proposals is the fair rent system. It defines a fair rent as "the likely market rent for a dwelling could be obtained if supply and demand for rented accommodation were broadly in balance in the area concerned."

It says there are still more than eight million rented dwellings. But rents are not consistently related either to the value of the accommodation or to the means of the tenant. The right principle is first to determine a rent which is reasonable for the dwelling and then consider whether the tenant needs help.

A new deal for rented houses will be based on:

- 1 Fair rents for all unfurnished tenancies who can afford them;
- 2 A rent allowance for those who cannot;
- 3 Concentration of Exchequer subsidies on authorities with the worst housing.

Controlled tenancies will be brought more quickly into the "fair rent" system. There are still 1.3 million controlled tenancies where the rent has not changed since 1957. They will be brought into rent regulation in a staged programme beginning on January 1, 1973, and take three years. Landlords will be able to apply for a fair rent registered by the rent officer three months before. The annual increment will be not less than 50p a week.

Landlords and tenants will be able to agree between themselves to rent increases, provided the agreement is written on a prescribed form, lodged with a local authority, and not in force until four weeks after being lodged. The tenant will have no obligation to agree. The landlord will apply for cancellation of the registration when a

rent has been registered for three years and the parties agree on a new rent. This will be granted only if it does not exceed a fair rent.

The Government agrees with the Francis Committee that indefinite security of tenure for furnished accommodation would be against the longer term interest of tenants and cause the supply to dry up. It will take the earliest opportunity for increasing maximum penalties for harassment and illegal eviction.

Fair rents will be applied to local authority dwellings. They will reflect the value of the accommodation "by reference to its character, location, amenities, and state of repair," but not its value because of local shortage. The White Paper says: "The rents of most council dwellings are at

present less than the fair rent."

The new rents will be assessed by the local authority. The authority will publish provisional assessments and consider any representations from tenants. It will then submit them to a special committee drawn from the rent assessment panel. This will test them by inspecting typical dwellings and making sample checks.

Every authority will be under a duty to consider tenants' views on the assessment and to grant a rebate to any tenant who cannot afford a fair rent. A council tenant will not have the same protection from eviction as any other tenant. An authority will be able to evict only by order from the county court. An advisory committee is to be set up by the Secretary for the Environment to advise on problems to do with determining fair rents in the public sector.

Fair rents will be introduced by annual steps. Beginning with the financial year 1972-73, weekly rents of all dwellings of an authority whose rent is below the fair rent level or not yet been determined will be increased by an average of 50p for the whole of the year with a maximum of 75p for each year for any dwelling. Fair rents will be re-determined every three years. Local authorities will be required to apply the national rent rebate scheme not later than October, 1973.

A national rent rebate scheme will apply to both local authority tenants and for the first time to private tenants of unfurnished accommodation. Under an apparently complicated but fairly straightforward system, every tenant will be assessed as having a needs allowance for himself and his wife of £13.50, and £2.50 for each child. When this is the same as his gross income, he would pay 40 per cent of the rent of his dwelling. If his income is more than the needs allowance, he pays 40 per cent of his rent plus 17p for every £1 his income exceeds the allowance. If his income is less, he pays 40 per cent of his rent minus 35p for every £1 it falls below the allowance. Some families will pay no rent at all. Private tenants will receive a cash allowance, while council tenants will simply have their rent reduced by the amount of rebate.

The rebate scheme will reduce the rent income obtainable by local authorities, but the Government considers that a 100 per cent Exchequer subsidy for rebates would be "wrong in principle, call in question the financial independence of local authorities,

• The tables below show the level of rebate on rents of £3 a week and £6 a week

| Weekly rebate or allowance where rent of dwelling is £3 per week | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Income per week | Single Person | Man & Wife | Man, Wife & 1 Child | Man, Wife & 2 Children | Man, Wife & 3 Children | |
| £ | £p | £p | £p | £p | £p | |
| 8 | 2.17½ | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | |
| 12 | 1.37½ | 2.17½ | 2.80 | 3.00 | 3.00 | |
| 16 | 0.69½ | 1.37½ | 1.80 | 2.42½ | 3.00 | |
| 20 | Nil | 0.69½ | 1.12 | 1.54½ | 2.05 | |
| 25 | Nil | Nil | 0.27 | 0.69½ | 1.12 | |
| 30 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 0.27 | |

| Weekly rebate or allowance where rent of dwelling is £6 per week | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Income per week | Single Person | Man & Wife | Man, Wife & 1 Child | Man, Wife & 2 Children | Man, Wife & 3 Children | |
| £ | £p | £p | £p | £p | £p | |
| 8 | 3.97½ | 4.97½ | 5.60 | 6.00 | 6.00 | |
| 12 | 3.17½ | 3.97½ | 4.60 | 5.23½ | 5.85 | |
| 16 | 2.49½ | 3.17½ | 3.60 | 4.22½ | 4.85 | |
| 20 | 1.81½ | 2.49½ | 2.92 | 3.44½ | 3.85 | |
| 25 | 0.96½ | 1.64½ | 2.07 | 2.49½ | 2.92 | |
| 30 | Nil | 0.79½ | 1.22 | 1.64½ | 2.07 | |

THE Government claims in a White Paper, "Fair Deal for Housing," published yesterday, that its proposals are a radical change in housing policy, creating conditions for "a final assault on the slums, the overcrowding, the dilapidation, and the injustice that still scar the housing scene."

Policies for controlling rents and subsidising new buildings, although preventing an acute overall shortage of houses in England and Wales, hinder the solution of the problems that remain. "They take too little account of the need to keep the existing stock of houses in good heart. They provide too little help for people in need. Moreover, they are fundamentally unfair. They take from people who can ill afford to give to others who, by comparison, often have no need of help."

It lays down three objectives: A decent home for every family at a price within its means; A fairer choice between owning a home and renting one; Fairness between one citizen and another in giving and receiving help towards the costs of housing.

The present system, it says, thwarts these objectives because: Existing subsidies for new buildings are indiscriminate. It claims that 90 per cent of Exchequer housing subsidies in 1970-1 of £157 millions and local authority housing subsidies from rates of £80 millions to £65 millions went to reduce general rent levels. Regard less of need and only 10 per cent for rent rebates.

Some housing authorities receive subsidies but do not need them. Authorities with the worst problems get too little. Some ratepayers make a disproportionately heavy contribution to the housing costs of others. Many tax-payers and ratepayers are poorer and worse housed than the council tenants whom they subsidise.

An unfair pattern of rents exists between different authorities. In London in March, 1970, the borough average varied from £1.90 to £4.41 a week. The differences arise from historical accidents depending on when council housing was built.

Housing subsidies from tax and rates which cost £220 millions in 1970-1 would, if continued, increase over the next 10 years by at least £300 millions. This "staggering addition to the nation's tax burden" would not produce the new building required nor remove the injustices of the present system.

In the private sector, most controlled rents barely cover the cost of proper maintenance and insurance. The rent of private tenants subject to rent

control has not moved since 1957 and is typically 65p a week outside London and £1.50 a week in London. "Many landlords of controlled tenancies are poorer than the tenants who enjoy a very low rent at the landlord's expense."

Rent control has accelerated deterioration of older houses. If the present system continued, this effort in removal of slums would be neutralised by the drift into slumdom of controlled dwellings.

State aid sought for old churches

By BADEN HICKMAN, Churches Correspondent

Government is to be asked to give state aid to help preserve hundreds of old churches. Representatives of all denominations are expected to have talks with the Department of the Environment later this summer.

General Synod of the Church of England, meeting at York yesterday, decided to have talks with other churches — including 2,000 Anglican — listed as places of

need for help. It was a decision almost as historic as some of the Church's buildings. Many in the Church had long feared that strings would be attached to any grants, and that voluntary support would stop if the Government stepped in.

Altogether, it is estimated that there are about 2,500 churches — including 2,000 Anglican — listed as places of

difficult to raise money for the big cathedrals.

The General Synod also decided that the time had come for research into all aspects of its church building programme.

The Provost of Wakefield, the Very Rev P. N. Pare, moving the motion for state aid, said the great majority of church people were now agreed that such help was needed. Differences arose about the best means of getting it. Some thought the Church should offer to surrender the exemption from planning control that it had over the interior of such buildings. But the Free Churches and Roman Catholic Church greatly valued this freedom.

The Provost considered this ecclesiastical planning exemption, allowing freedom to make internal alterations, important. "If the ecclesiastical exemption is too easily and quickly surrendered, we shall have a collection of splendid ecclesiastical museums, in which history ceases in the mid-twentieth century," he said. "Our buildings will become no more than an archaeologist's paradise."

At the next meeting of the States, the Island Parliament, I shall seek legislation so that Alderney has the same sort of proper adoption law that operates elsewhere. The present system of transferring the child to other people and making them its legal guardians by means of a civil contract registered in court is wide open to abuse. There is nothing at present to prevent anyone living in Alderney moving to Alderney taking advantage of it."

The Channel Island of Alderney may outlaw the "giving away" of children. On Alderney recently a child, and its mother's rights, was the subject of a civil contract transferring them to a third party. The island, which has internal self-rule, has no adoption law.

The President of Alderney, Mr George Baron, aged 54, said: "The child was virtually given away as though a piece of property was changing hands. It is done quite simply. Both parties sign the civil contract, get it approved by the local court, and change the child's name by deed."

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'Child market' to end

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Gaoled 'pirates' appeal

Five sailors who look possession of the Aberdeen trawler Mary Craig within territorial waters last October may have committed mutiny but not piracy, for which they were gaoled, counsel for two of the men told the Court of Criminal Appeal in Edinburgh yesterday.

The men were found guilty by a majority verdict in the High Court in Aberdeen last May. They are: Andrew Innes (25), of Marconi Road, Fraserburgh (sentenced to 18 months); William Massie (26), of Gairnshiel Avenue, Aberdeen (18 months); Alexander Cameron (34), of Mossie Place, Aberdeen (30 months); Colin Charles (35), of Middlefield Place, Aberdeen (two years); and Ronald Park (24), of Corstorphine Drive, Aberdeen (two years).

All five are appealing against conviction and all except Massie Norman Wylie QC, for the Court was dealing primarily with a question of jurisdiction.

Many definitions of piracy referred to the high seas, but in his view, piracy could not be committed only on the high seas and be called something else more and no less than those of territorial waters.

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AT THE AGE of 63 (which is what he claims, though he scarcely looks so venerable a part) William Glock remains all the enthusiasm of a youth moulded by musical Cambridge and the Berlin of Kurt Schenker's masterclasses. Controller of Music at the BBC, knighted, with occasionally a stylistic hint of the Foreign Secretary about the courtliness of his tall frame and phraseology, he jibes instantly at the suggestion that he might at last be part of a rigid, established order. "Establishment figures don't think of me as an establishment figure," he remarks with a certain zest. "They think of me as a damned nuisance."

Mention his Proms, though, and he's happily launched. Straight into mid-stream. Nothing potentially delights him more about this year's series than the visit of the high-on legendary Soviet conductor Evgeny Mravinsky. "To hear Mravinsky do Tchaikovsky ballet music," he says, "is to have the words effect to fall." He's a Russian Weingartner, a sort of Talleysand, a Napoleon.

And why, you ask, does Glock break one of his unwritten rules by devoting a whole evening to Haydn? Haydn, he's afraid, still has to find his true level in Prom terms, and so, even more surprisingly, does Handel. "You have to love music more to love Haydn. You do an evening of his music because you so much want people to like him." The affection is all there, in the eyes: who, they ask, could possibly not love Haydn? And a hundred other composers besides.

"I believe in plumping for what you're really enthusiastic about," he says, and he recalls slightly embarrassed, that Pierre Boulez once told him: "You have charm but you're utterly obstinate, and charm without obstinacy is nothing at all." Yet his tastes seem almost too various, certainly too wide to be expressed in one ideal concert programme. "It would contain a great classical work. There'd be a great contemporary work in it as well. But it's so difficult to answer. Perhaps I ought to be able to answer. Perhaps there are 55 answers." This last comes with a sudden, relieved smile. There are 55 Proms this year.

When they are all over, in the second half of September, without pausing for breath, Glock will get down to the serious business of planning next year's Proms. He calls this a "delightful" process. Even now the top file of the stack on his desk has "Proms '72"

Christopher Ford interviews Sir William Glock whose twelfth Prom season opens on July 23

Fifty five answers

picture of Sir William Glock by Don Morley



on the cover. It is nowhere near empty. "You have an almost clean sheet; it's only when you've done about two-thirds of it that you find there's too much of this and not enough of that. And I have a wonderful lieutenant called Christopher Samuelson who finds out when it's convenient for people to do things." Next season will be Glock's thirteenth, and his last in full control, for he plans to retire at the end of 1972. He throws out hints, no more, of what to expect.

There will be some spin-off, some repeat performances of British things, from the BBC winter season. American music will feature quite prominently after a meagre run. "What I'm dying to have is an American orchestra," says Glock, lamenting the fact that the Americans tend to make their European tours at inconvenient times. There could be a further substantial piece by Messiaen, whose "Transfiguration" began last year's Proms. There could also be a very special personal appearance. For Glock remains an accomplished pianist.

At least part of the flourish of the

Proms in recent years has depended upon Glock's close communication with Davis as chief conductor. "He came to my summer school in 1948, and he says that's when he fell in love with Berlioz," Glock recalls at one stage. And coincidentally, a score of years apart, both had been at the same school, Christ's Hospital. From there Glock got an organ scholarship to Calus. He had been a pianist since the age of four, and one of his remembered pleasures at Cambridge is playing two-piano arrangements of Stravinsky's music with Boris Ord. "Early in 1930, in my last year at Cambridge, a friend asked me if I'd like to hear Schubert playing in Oxford that afternoon. Of course I said 'yes' but it was thick fog and we only just got there. He played Beethoven and Schubert, and it was so delightful I used to go to Berlin. We sometimes had four-hour lessons, all of us together, listening to details forgotten. Studying with Schnabel was a great musical education whether

you were destined to become a pianist or not." Glock was not, in any exclusive sense, but down all the years spent as newspaper critic and administrator it has mattered to him to retain contact with music as it is actually played. On the shop floor. "My job here is one of practical criticism, at a very responsible level," he says. "The administration part is peripheral, a question of seeing that the good ideas, when you have them, don't go down the drain." When he took over the Proms in 1960 he made instant impact. The phrase "new broom" appeared in several headlines. As he closes the windows, so that we can hear to converse above the traffic, he informs me at the BBC to have double glazing. It caused a lot of criticism at the time. "In those days the Proms still involved too few people playing too much music and were not all that much better off than the days of Henry Wood." He had a genius for knowing which hairs to rebraid, otherwise it would have been catastrophic," says Glock the

critic. "I get so annoyed when I receive angry letters saying 'Why can't you leave the Proms as they were in Wood's day?' That's the last thing Wood himself would have done. He was always interested in anything new." During the Glock era the number of symphony orchestras playing at the Proms has grown from four to thirteen, plus some extra chamber groups, the total of concerts has increased from 49 to 55, and the prices for standing in the promenade and sitting in the stalls of the Royal Albert Hall have risen from 15p and 45p respectively to 35p and £125. Innovations have been the annual visit of a distinguished foreign orchestra, starting in 1966—the Leningrad Philharmonic, this year, will be the third Soviet group to come—Sunday Proms (1966), a special "ceremonial" opening Friday night (1968), a late-night Prom (1970), and the move out to three other buildings (1971). Everyone, in the process, has been kept on tiptoe. "I'm obviously pleased with the Proms, not only because they've won a new audience but also because

they're more free. If the Proms were ailing, either dull or safe, I believe the rest of the BBC's music would be, too."

With upwards of 12 hours' "straight" music put out by the BBC each day (and the Music Programme was one of Glock's habits) there's a major businessman's function of coordination. The temptation remains, so often, to lash out, to play the elaborate, extravagant works which seem so especially suited to the typical Prom audience. Perhaps like Henck's Bar of the Frigate Medusa, the "oratorio" of a military march which is dedicated to the memory of Che Guevara, which ends with an enormous percussion department hammering out the rhythm of the chant "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh." The German premiere was cancelled amid political agitation and still is.

Glock pursues his lips and says he isn't convinced the audience would care for it. The last big Henck work they played at the Proms, back in 1965, didn't come off at all. Perhaps it might be acceptable as a late-night Prom. You think you can see him thinking. He'll listen to the recording again. And who would conduct it? (The question isn't entirely rhetorical: the former journalist prefers dialogue to inquisition.) It would cost £6,000 to put on, he says quietly, and suddenly you realise that he has been very much under consideration and still is.

The man who organises such a vast festival for a notably young audience needs special antennae. The last thing you could accuse Glock of lacking is touch. "Isn't Che Guevara a bit out of date?" he asks, teasingly, as we talk of the Henck piece. He introduced medieval music a couple of seasons ago, when it was, to most people, a surprising success. "It wouldn't have worked a few years earlier, he believes. And his judgment of Messiaen's appeal was marvellously right."

He admires his audiences not least for their stamina. This year Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" in Westminster Cathedral is to be followed after an interval of 20 minutes by an hour of Stockhausen's "Mantra" in the Albert Hall. Who, I ask, would conceivably dash from the one to the other? "This Glock feels, undercuts his promoters," he says. "I'm not going to be one myself." Whether it is taste or duty or both, he also says: "I would hate to put on any programme I wouldn't be seen at." Which brings us, a sardine-packed full house of us, back to next season. Let him be seen then. At the piano.



Kika Markham with Jean-Pierre Leaud

DEUX ANGLAISES AND TRUFFAUT

story and pictures by Sophie Baker



Kika Markham with Jean-Pierre Leaud

LAST WEEK François Truffaut's "Bed and Board" opened in London. Meanwhile he is back in Paris from the Normandy coast to complete the shooting of his eleventh full length feature in 12 years. It is a love story set at the beginning of the century, based on the novel "Deux Anglaises et le Continent" by Henri-Pierre Roche, author of "Jules and Jim."

This time the emotional pace is controlled by the cultured bourgeois ambitions of the characters' mothers. Ann, on holiday in France, meets Claude and invites him to spend the summer in Wales with her mother and sister Muriel. Claude and Muriel fall in love. Claude's mother arrives from Paris to discuss their marriage and the two are politely but firmly ordered to separate for one year. They reluctantly agree but secretly keep in touch with one another. Ann, at the start an alibi and go-between, is emotionally drawn into a triangle within which the story unfolds.

Claude is played by Jean-Pierre Leaud. It is the first time Truffaut has not directed him as Antoine Doinel, the young boy in "Quatre Cent Coups" and later as the young married father still struggling to adapt to society in "Bed and Board." For the casting of the girls Truffaut asked Oscar Lewinstein who produced his "The Bride Wore Black," to assist. Lewinstein's first choice was Kika Markham (above left), an experienced stage and television actress but as yet, surprisingly, untried in films. She was immediately given the part of Ann. For anyone who saw her play Nina in Jonathan Miller's Nottingham Playhouse production of "The Scavenger" the choice is justified. Finding a girl to play Muriel took longer. After auditioning more than 50 young actresses the part was given to Stacey Tendeter, 21 years old and recently graduated from the Central School. Her audition showed a directness and lack of sentimentality essential for the part.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Tom Hutchinson

Caterina Valente

CATERINA VALENTE has the kind of stage personality that seems to suggest that she is going to hit you before you hit her. Her attack in the delivery of her songs presumes an immediate and unqualified adoration on the part of the audience. She storms her way through two long numbers before she even admits our presence. "I was too busy singing to say hello," she confesses, visibly surprised not to find us all toppled senseless with ecstasy, and then hushes on into her next song. It is a technique that—because of the intimacy of the circumstance at the Talk of the Town—presumes rather too much.

With an artiste like her, of course, such attack is too often the best method of offence, but Miss Valente's equipment for the assault is brilliantly organised. She has a voice which can drill through the octave-barrier with a power that never becomes screeching, and the ability to project her act never flickers, not even during some misjudged dancing with her brother, Silvio, who is also her musical director. The trouble is that I felt she was constantly under fire as to be a survivor and not a participant. What she did not achieve for me was any kind of involvement; she burns fiercely but without warmth. And perhaps it is best that she never tries. "Love can be," in which she is totally convincing: a stunning barrage of sound and cynicism signifying the highest level of Miss Valente's talent.

The Burt Rhodes orchestra are her shock troops for the occasion and if you surrender only conditionally, remember that Miss Valente has sold more than 25 million record albums. Which must mean something, even if only that with a record player, you can turn the volume down.

COVENT GARDEN

Philip Hope-Wallace

Peter Grimes

BRITTEN'S WORLD encircling world opera now more than a quarter century on, is a strange house to Covent Garden and small wonder: the production was lauded in these columns a few days ago but it is worth mentioning again for the splendid new contribution on Monday of Norman Bailey in the role of the tolerant Balstrode, the Live and let live chap with his liquid, merry eye, big manly baritone, perfect sense of how to play up to the neurotic self accusing hero, sung with the passion of a guilty Parsifal by Jon Vickers.

If the scene where the heroine Ellen (Heather Harper) tries to make the victim of the sadistic fisherman speak and uncovers his hurts while the offstage chapel Sunday folk intone their hymn, is still some of the best melodrama since Puccini, the Inn Scene, with Bailey and the others, under the firm, stimulating wrist of Colin Davis comes out as a masterpiece which is going to last. Here Covent Garden's team work is remarkable; the humblest member of Douglas Robinson's chorus comes to life without impinging too much on the named, fairly anonymous, small parts, sweetly and from in continuous movement in the production which Ande Anderson has miraculously reconstructed from the original of the late Tyrone Guthrie. Movement—but motion stilled unobtrusively to permit silent points to emerge uninterrupted. In the interval I heard Americans in the lobby who know the opera well from New York productions, if not

from those German ones patronised by the US in Germany, that the storm should have been louder and the fog thicker. But I say this production is very faithful to the world of Crabbe, Aldeburgh and "The Borough." What a milieu all the same for operatic treatment. No wonder it made a sensation in the post-war operatic ambience, though the horrors, like the fresh strokes, are more than ever obvious today.

FESTIVAL HALL

Meirion Bowen

RPO/Berne Choir

GERMAN COMPOSERS we have long welcomed with open arms, and the French are now more tolerated than they used to be. But the Swiss tend to give a miss. Even figures like Honegger and Frank Martin are known only through a handful of pieces and to hear their bigger works is something special. Heinrich Sutermeister will be a name known, I suspect, only to the few who in 1953 were occupied with other things than waving Union Jacks. Sadler's Wells put on his "Romeo and Juliet" that year, and this has occasionally been broadcast since. But I recall encountering very little else of his. All the more fitting, then, that his large-scale "Missa da Requiem" (1951-2) should have been heard at a Royal Festival Hall concert in which the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra were joined by the Berne Choir.

The setting offers every evidence of the composer's identification with dramatic values underlying the Latin text, and his setting follows more the intimate example of Fauré rather than Verdi or Berlioz. But it doesn't quite get there. The music's identity is not fully formed. Only in the "Sanctus Benedictus" movement does the music progress from averted choral counterpoint to a full assertion of lyricism which the two soloists throughout suggest to be the principal objective.

Elsewhere in the work Sutermeister fails to establish proper contrasts to the weighty tonal writing, with its insistent rhythms, that is his usual starting-point.

The "Requiem" was confidently rendered by the Berne Choir (which comprises the City's Male Voice Choir and Teachers' Choral Society) with the Swiss conductor, François Pantillon in charge.

LEEDS FESTIVAL

Merete Bates

'Wing' and 'Circus'

THE US AND USSR in one day at the Leeds Festival promise at worst different, at best an exciting clash of priorities in children's theatre. The Americans judging by their group "The Wing" started in San Francisco in 1968, plumped at Leeds Playhouse for do-it-yourself, for individual and universal creativity. A small group of people in ordinary clothes without costume or scenery and a warm, easy-going, relaxed hand with the audience: anything they could do, the children could do better. But their method, "free" improvisation, is deceptive and ultimately limiting.

Intentionally, the aim was "going off the top of your head and trusting your feelings," ostensibly full of novelty, spontaneity, and invention; in practice it reduced creativity to a constant taxing and testing of individual physical and mental reflex actions. It grew into a clever team game in which development depended on speed rather than depth of judgment. At the same time, all concentration or exploration of an objective theme, such as "spoon" suggested by the audience, was prevented by constant recession to individual payoffs. Even the game became

restricted by monotonous and crippling rules.

But the children loved it—as long as they could join in. Improvisation, to many of them, was something new. Only when left out in the second half did they grow bored and complain.

Right at the other end of the scale the Russians (at Leeds Grand) with highly conscious professional performances by a troupe of no fewer than 45 actors, two tons of costumes and scenery, and three specially devised shows. "Our Circus" is a broad, exuberant skit on imagination without ground—weightlifter without weight, lion without roar, and so on—that uses mime to reinforce broken English and includes a subplot on nationalities. Each act is by a different country.

It's really something to watch four luscious Russian cowboys dancing barebacked on hardback chairs, shooting mosquitoes to the tune of "John Brown's Body." That is the feel: naïve, exuberant, demonstrative, bursting with physical oomph, with stories and sounds in common.

HAMPSTEAD

Hugh Hebert

Haworth play

THE CONCEPTS of the Town Clerk says Cuthbells the de-housing officer sent to knock down the Tin Tabernacle, we can vulgarise for the mob—as a motorway, a lido, a technological university. But we cannot question the decisions he makes. In Don Haworth's "A Hearts and Minds Job" at Hampstead Theatre Club, the characters might be spared the kindly wrath of the god-like town clerk, if only they would renounce the bizarre and the untoward. But the bizarre keeps breaking in.

The de-housing officer turns out to be the long-lost father of the young man he is about to dispossess. The resident reverend of the Tin Tabernacle (the only Padre in the RAF ever to be reduced to the ranks) arrives in an old Dakota flown by a gun runner who will be the saviour of them all. The first act ends with a mourner in search of the coin-op crematorium. Joe Orton's spirit is as you might guess, somewhere close by and Mr Haworth's dialogue has something loutish in it. It has moments of splendid black farce as the threatened household wins, then loses, then wins again, the de-housing officer's sympathy. Yet what one misses is the ultimate toughness; geniality too breaks in, and the softening somehow prevents the fantasy from quite taking off.

Robert Edlison has a fine edginess as the de-housing officer who loses his faith in the town clerk and sees a more blinding light; and Colin Gordon as the reverend and David Battley's lantern-jawed holy innocent are splendidly drawn in Donald McWhinnie's production.

TELEVISION

Peter Fiddick

The non-series

ONE OF THE saddest symptoms of the pressure television planners feel themselves under in getting and keeping audiences is the non-series. You see it at its most ludicrous, of course, in the tortuous permutations of old films on BBC-1. "A Season of British Comedy," "The Very Best of Peter Sellers," and the "Laughing Sixties" might each rate the magic New Series tag in the schedules but it's all a load of Carry On Re-Running really, with the same old faithfuls.

All this, however, is by way of prelude to the observation that "The Seasons of the Year" on ITV is just as bogus a concept. These scenes from more a series than all those Keystone silent movies that were improvised

review



Robert Edlison and Hugh Hebert

from economic necessity round a same set. It might work in the crud Pavlovian level of audience response but it's a pretty sterile concept at a marginally higher plane.

Indeed, anyone not actually hooked on the house itself (well, you never know) would never have got as far as Monday's episode, because the series opened with a Regency farce of utmost banality. Yet having now tipped forward to World War II, Al Skene last night gave us a very nice little drama of sexual and other frictions in what was now a hazy shambling setting. Very tidy performances too by Jennie Linden, T. Arnold, and Penny Spencer.

SADLER'S WELLS

James Kennedy

'Tower' and 'Tri'

ALWIN NIKOLAIS this week is at the third and last of his programmes at Sadler's Wells. Now included in this final programme, rarely because it tells a story, deluged a perceptible message. Most of Nikola's many inventions are essays in lighting, human movement and the use of props in order to produce beautiful, bizarre or funny images, but rarely to make a human drama or tell a story. "Tower" is a variation on the theme of Tower of Babel, an exception, a member of its cast is armed with a rectangle of tubular aluminium; after these have been put to use often amusing, uses, their owners huddle together to form a skeletal tower up goes the tower and up the go the people to hang out a cone of flags and to shout their discords; and the hubbub grows there is a big bang, the tower lurches and the curtain comes down. Nikola's next, brief way, it seems, is to report human progress and of; notating the end of it. "Tri" is rare in being a work of narrative, too, in its humorous as astringent. "Tri", which reappears in the programme, is possibly the best of Nikola's productions. It is a antic for three of the girls; a principal charm of Nikola's pictures is immediate rather prolonged. The three girls, dressed in liquorice sticks or Chinese lac glaze and sway about the stage invisible feet and their celestial bella, is, for once, a harm and opposite pleasure. "Tri" is musical, deceptively simple—gem.

Some of these notices appeared in editions yesterday.

[illegible]

The time for growth

Next week the Chancellor of the Exchequer must make up his mind whether or not to reflate the economy. If he was still in any doubt at the start of the week, the April production figures and the good June foreign trade figures should convince him of the need to act. Mr Barber has been pressed to do something to stimulate growth, not only by the Opposition and the TUC, but, more recently, by Conservative backbenchers and some of his own Cabinet colleagues. So far he has refused to cut purchase tax, ease credit terms, or cut Bank rate further, arguing that the economy was still on line for the 3 per cent growth rate he had forecast during the Budget. The evidence has made it increasingly difficult for Mr Barber to sustain this stonewalling approach. Growth in the first half of the year was nonexistent, investment continued to fall, and the underlying unemployed trend continued to rise.

So far the Government has refused to reflate the economy because of fear that this would make inflation worse and would lead to balance of payments trouble. But industry is now working so far below capacity that any action to increase output would cut unit costs and thus help to contain inflation. The trade figures show that for once the Chancellor need not be inhibited from pursuing domestic economic growth for external reasons. It is true that the encouraging June figures owe something to the low level of industrial activity at home and something to the inflationary difficulties of other countries. But for whatever reason the payments are likely to be handsomely in surplus again this year. If the Chancellor defers reflation again there is no guarantee that when he is finally forced to act the balance of payments will look so healthy. For once all the economic indicators point in the same direction.

Homes and high rents

Making sense of housing statistics is too much a question of paying your money and taking your choice. In the first half of this year private housing starts rose by 31 per cent over the same period last year. Excellent. But council house building is declining and, a recent NEDC report says, may fall by 11 per cent this year. Bad. Meanwhile more hotels, but fewer new factories are being built. And there is one job in construction for every 45 unemployed building workers. If home buyers have the deposit money and can afford the mortgage rates the building societies are more willing to lend money than ever. But in London and other big urban centres the incidence of overcrowding and homelessness is again on the increase. However the trends and figures are interpreted on one thing there can be little doubt; housing still occupies too low a national priority.

It is hardly surprising that in a housing environment like this anomalies and injustices should abound. There are anomalies between the level of rents charged in the private and the public sector. More obviously there are anomalies between the level of rents charged in different parts of the country. There are big discrepancies between the rent rebate systems administered by different local authorities. Mr Peter Walker's White Paper identifies some of these problems. Its objectives are unexceptionable. But its proposals hardly meet the seriousness of the situation which Mr Walker himself has given eloquent witness to in the past.

The Government wants to introduce the concept of a fair rent. By this Mr Walker means a market rent. Generous help will be given to the really poor. But many working families will now face a massive increase in rents over the next three years. That can hardly help the fight against inflation. For the first time private unfurnished tenancies will be brought into the fair rent scheme. But why are tenants in furnished accommodation (often those with the greatest need) ignored? Mr Walker's proposals may redress some internal inconsistencies in the treatment of tenants. But the central problem remains the need to increase the stock of housing, particularly in the public rental sector.

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FOCUS ON EUROPE

The strategies of British alliance

THE GROWTH of a serious movement for the political union of Western Europe has put Britain into a profound dilemma. Attempts to unify this great area have a long history: and if there is one classic precept of British foreign policy it is that Britain's independence can be sustained only if a united Continent can be prevented.

British government opposition to the growth of a union through the Monnet mechanism—a customs union followed by an economic union followed by a presumed need for political authority followed by political union—was predictable and did indeed come.

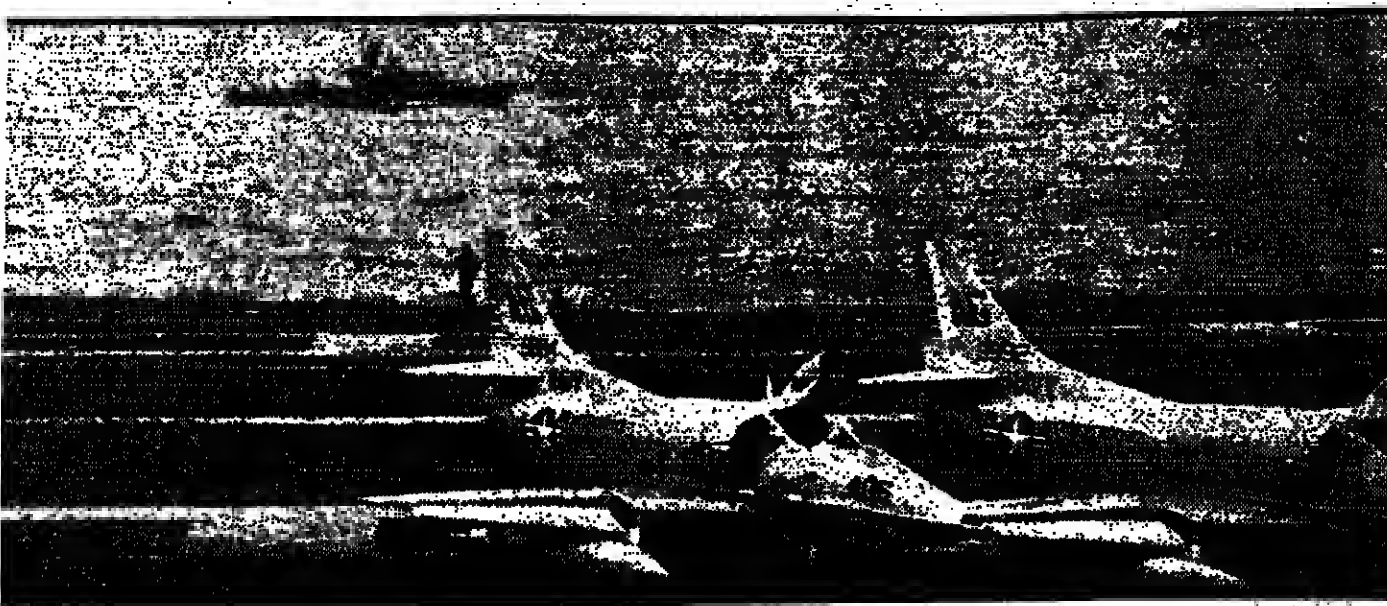
The Monnet inversion of the usual processes of politics left the whole question ambiguous. While no-one could doubt that Napoleon or Hitler was unifying the Continent, a substantial sector of British opinion seriously doubted whether Dr Hallstein could or would do it.

In economic policy, the sudden discovery that a new economic principle—the large home market—has become central to all industry and commerce at least provided a coherent proposition around which debate and thought could gather, but the political considerations, which have probably been the decisive ones, are so riddled with contradictions as to be almost impossible to discuss.

The fundamental difficulty is quite simply this. Such men as Mr Edward Heath, Mr Harold Wilson and Lord Gladwyn are quite aware of the varieties of national state with their governments, their systems of justice, their armed forces, their foreign policies. They have made it clear that they do not believe that this is what is being formed in Europe.

Equally, they are well aware of the alliance relationship, a technique on which British policy has always depended and does today more than ever before. It cannot be that they expect to derive from what is called the political union of Europe, since a grand alliance already exists in NATO and since significant economic sacrifices are being urged on the country to allow it to join in the construction of this great new thing.

What they are advocating is something they consider to be new: and it is therefore extremely difficult to assess what they are trying to



NATO, the Grand Alliance which already exists successfully, exercising its muscles

do. They feel, or seem from their statements to feel, that it is possible for the British, French, Germans and others to enter into an arrangement which goes far deeper than NATO or any other existing association, and yet which stops short of being a state. The words of the Prime Minister, Mr Heath, are quite clear on this point. First, the absence of any British intention to enter a political federation:

"Those members of the Community who want a federal system, but who know the views of Her Majesty's Government and the Opposition parties here are prepared to forgo their federal desires so that Britain should be a member and take part in political consultation and coordination with them."

Yet the assurance that this will be more than what now exists.

"Some hon. Members opposite, including the right hon. Member for Bournemouth, North (Mr Joy), believe that it is better that we as a country should go it alone and that we can exercise equal influence. Surely the last few years have shown that this is no longer the case. There are some who take this view, including some of my right hon. and hon. friends. They would argue that the lack of influence over the past few years has been due to particular Government policies. That may be a contributory factor, but does not comprise the whole of the factors about the influence of a single country in the modern world today. I respect their disagreement, but I believe that we have to play a part with others if it is possible to do so."

Had this statement been

made in 1948, it would have been a piece of advocacy for the Western Alliance. But read in the context of a thriving alliance structure, it is clear that when Mr Heath talks about going it alone he means the sort of situation that has prevailed in the last decade. Thus, the four-power confrontation with the Soviet Union over Berlin, the acquisition of American nuclear delivery systems, the permanent stationing of tens of thousands of men in Germany, and so on, constitute a situation which falls within the broad definition of going it alone.

Thus a Europe which achieved what NATO has achieved—in which common commands held the assignment of common troops, in which nuclear planning was done by joint authorities, in which fleets were exercised in common, in which immense quantities of military equipment were exchanged, in which major projects (like the Harrier) were done jointly, and in which a deeply difficult military crisis was passed without any break in the ranks—would be one in

which Mr Heath would define as Britain going it alone.

He wants something different. "To play a part with others." On occasions, he has gone so far (with Lord Gladwyn, among others) as to talk about something entirely new in political life.

The elements of this it seems, are to be found in the methods of the EEC; the supreme authority will be an agency (presumably a Council of Ministers) under the direct orders of Governments; the voting system, however, conceived, will in practice not exercise authority over major states against their will.

It would be a proper conclusion from this orthodox British governmental and official position that the new Europe will not on this basis achieve anything which can be called political union. It is also reasonable to assume that since the Atlantic grouping has already achieved more than such a group can aspire to, and that with the US as a member it is far more able to make its way

in the world, any intimate inner group that is formed will have no significant function not already performed at the wider level.

Two qualifications to this must, however, be made. The first is that many unionists who are allowing Mr Heath and Mr Wilson to speak for the European cause believe that there is no point in exposing the British public to the full consequences of their actions. Taking their cue and usually their ideas from American continental ideologists, they are convinced that a united Europe is manifest destiny. They are content that what they regard as a move into quicksand should be advertised as a gentle and hesitant first step holding out no obligations for later steps.

In other words, this powerful school of opinion thinks it can see the grain of history, and is convinced that the act of "joining Europe" (as they so curiously express it) will bring with it the consequences so vehemently denied by its authors. Many of this school of opinion believe that Mr Heath is one of them while Mr Wilson is not.

The second qualification is that there is a small but possibly influential group of people who see membership in the EEC as a useful political tactic. The argument is that either with or without an intimate American alliance (a matter which is mainly up to the Americans themselves) Britain must not allow it to be thought that she is outside the main-

stream of European development. The European movement is a fact; and while it is most unlikely (on this view) to lead to a union, the French have stolen a distinct advantage on the British by being willing to make the unionist noises and join in grandiose proclamations.

The future American relationship with European security is clearly one of the ambiguities in the European debate. A latent resentment of American predominance in alliance affairs has shown itself among many Europeanists, both in Britain and in France. What might be called the Suez Syndrome is still strong, especially among Conservatives, and the discovery of Europe by Mr George Brown (as he then was) brought with it an indignant rejection of the "junior partnership" which Churchill had so carefully constructed as a means of introducing American power into Europe.

There is however, another and more serious line of argument. This is that the Americans may be leaving Europe; and that if they are there must be a European security structure able to accept the load.

On the substantive danger of renewed American isolationism, Britain must decide first whether she likes junior partnership (in the manner of Sir Alec Douglas-Home) or dislikes it (in the manner of Lord George-Brown). If, as she should, she likes it, the problem is how to sustain it. While the Americans say they would like a united Europe, in fact they will not like the consequences. When they find it hard to work with, they will detach themselves.

A united Europe will inevitably be seen by the US as a power which could become a rival. As Europe presumed to claim equal control, especially in a crisis, the American fear of being committed to a conflict they could not manage would grow. If anything in politics can be predicted, it is that an alliance of two giants will drift apart, as the Sino-Soviet alliance did.

Those who seek such a solution to Europe's dependence on the American power are consistent, though over-optimistic about their own safety; those who pretend that they are merely insuring against American isolationism seem unaware of the part they are playing in fulfilling their prophecy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EEC: contradicting the Socialist ideal

Sir,—The problem of whether or not to agree to enter into the European Economic Community is an incredibly complicated one. But it is made worse by the fact that, as Harold Wilson has put it, "The ultimate decision cannot be based on a computerised analysis of finely balanced calculations."

It is commonly asserted that Britain is a trading nation and that the increased market opportunities within the enlarged European Community are too great to be lightly disregarded. But we must ask what "increased market opportunities" really means. It means for a start, a so-called, more incentive-based tax structure. In short, a tax system directed away from the producers (the capitalists) towards the consumers. The already agreed-upon Value-Added Tax is the first step in this direction. In these circumstances it is not surprising that much of the Labour Party is against entry into Europe as they absolutely contradict the Socialist ideal of a steady advance towards a more equitable redistribution of income and the creation of a more advanced, civilised and socialist society.

For most of those who agree that Britain needs a more Socialist society the question of Common Market entry presents no problem. The Labour Party, on behalf of the British people, must say no to the Common Market, or allow itself to be dragged still further into the whirlpool of capitalism.—Yours faithfully,

Ken Judge,
Sidney Sussex College,
Cambridge.

Principle proved

Sir,—Those of us who have been in any way involved with the Guildford School of Art affair are extremely relieved that a settlement has at last been reached. It reflects considerable credit on all those who have been negotiating patiently over a long period. Your readers will have followed this from the full and fair reports which have appeared in your paper during the three years of the dispute. But most of all the agreement is a vindication of the seven lecturers whose professional careers were put at risk, and whose steadfast integrity has kept them unemployed in their efforts to establish the principle that a teacher's first allegiance is to his students.

Maurice Plaskow,
Chairman,
Confederation for the Advancement of State Education,
24 Burwood Park Road,
Walton on Thames.

Deflating a car safety argument

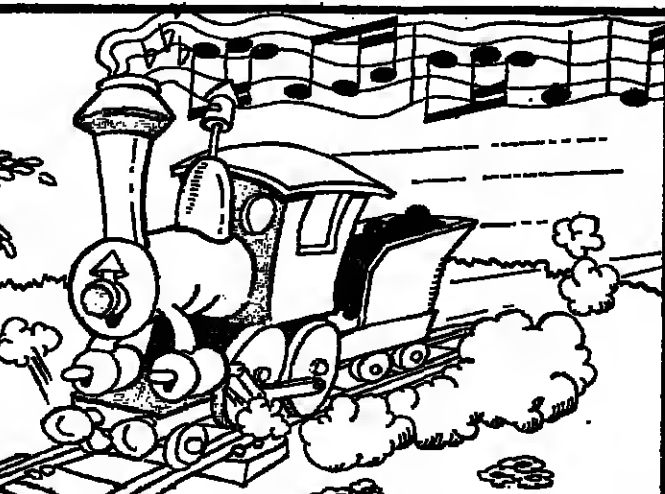
Sir,—While generally I have admired the pressure being put on Mr John Peyton to get us all safer motor cars, I confess that the article (Guardian July 12) by your Washington correspondent, Mr Adam Raphael, has given me some food for thought.

Mr Raphael criticises Ford for its full page advertisement warning about the dangers of airbags and pointing out the possibilities of more credible alternatives. He neglects the main point of this advertisement, which was an open invitation to the US public to write into Ford and state just what safety methods they thought should be used. A 19-point questionnaire was included asking people how much they would pay for safety.

A sight for sore ears

Sir,—Would it not be possible for those who are addicted to music to hear the inevitable cost of supplying the service.—Yours faithfully,

Philip Bladett,
1 Alwyne Mansions,
Wimbleton SW 19.



A danger to volunteer help

Sir,—The encouragement and extension of voluntary service in hospital is now an avowed aim of the Department of Health and Social Security. The number of volunteers attending hospitals today is not inconsiderable and they are making a valuable contribution to the daily work of many hospitals. The volunteers include young people, often teenagers and students, and some old age pensioners. Hospitals usually provide free meals and protective clothing for their voluntary helpers, but the expenses volunteers may incur in bus fares, travelling to and

Your correspondent slammed the advertisement because of its anti-airbag line, and he quotes the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's rebuttal of Ford reservations on the airbag. In particular, he quotes baboon tests indicating that airbags are better than safety straps. This is absolute nonsense. Col John Stapp took 160 mph sled rides with decelerations of up to 45G to prove the effectiveness of harnesses and also to establish the limits of human injury-free tolerance. But airbag testing is done only with baboons, since no human can be found to volunteer for an airbag demonstration.

Mr Raphael is allowing himself to be a pawn in the game now being played between Washington and Detroit. During

1968, Ralph Nader was pressing for legislation on airbags; this was then resisted by the NHTSA as being impractical for reasons outlined by engineers and motoring journalists throughout the world. In May of the following year, backed by US women's organisations, I proposed alternative legislation now incorporated in the US Standard 208 for passenger restraint and fully explained in several articles by your motoring correspondent, Ian Breach. In the meantime, Ralph Nader has clung to his position, and Detroit are delighted for him to do so, since he is propagating the impossible in the face of world opinion. If Nader admits that the airbag is not after all, such a good idea, they will be overcome with joy. It is against this political back-

A volte face on 'exploitation'

Sir,—While I would agree with much of what you say in "Sex and Love at School" the earlier part of your editorial is both unrealistic, and, if I may say so, disbonnet. You must surely be aware that the Little Red School Book was found obscene not because "its advice is more relevant" to seniors than to younger children, or because it failed to point out that it is important "to love and respect others." The book was found obscene because, amongst other things, it stated that children—and this, in practice, could mean all children—might "get some good ideas" from pornography and find "something which

Rules of the game

Sir,—Mrs Margaret Jones of the UWT and the 800 NAS members who refused to obey the strike call should certainly resign from their particular unions at once. She and they ought to know that the NAS and the UWT have been trying for several years to change the ridiculous "one voice" Burnham procedure by every possible gentlemanly means, without any success. They have thus already reached Mrs Jones's last resort of striking. At the NAS annual conference last Easter, members empowered the union executive to pursue the cause of structural salaries by all possible means. Strike action was not excluded, and those members who object to this weapon should have resigned from the union at that time. A man who voluntarily joins the army cannot reasonably expect to be excused when there is fighting to be done.—Yours faithfully,

G. I. Glyn,
(NAS)
Stewley,
Nr. Leighton Buzzard.

Loopholes in the nuclear safeguards

Sir,—Frank Allam has quoted only the first half of Article 1 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It goes in full: "Each nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or nuclear devices."

This means that signatory nuclear-weapon States are not prevented from "assisting," etc., other nuclear-weapon States, so an Anglo-French force would get through (two nuclear-weapon States). A West European force would also get through after the hypothetical conclusion of a federal State of Western Europe (and it could not be politically time about before that in any event); such a federal State would not be a non-nuclear-weapon State and it would presumably include Britain and France.

Further, Article 11 contains a loophole which allows a non-nuclear-weapon signatory (e.g. West Germany) to assist, etc., a non-signatory (e.g. France, or Israel, or South Africa). So much for the letter of the Treaty. As for the spirit, I'm not too sure that that is. The NPT is certainly in the tradition of Russian/American arms control measures which have been almost purely cosmetic, and have achieved neither disarmament nor a check on the arms race. Meanwhile West Germany is bound under another, and I hope better, treaty, not to acquire nuclear weapons.—Yours, etc.,

Elizabeth Young,
London W2.

A COUNTRY DIARY

OXON: Disused railway tracks, rapidly reverting to scrap, are now recognised as valuable substitutes for disappearing hedge-embankments and cuttings, which alternate along this section of the line, have become veritable nature reserves for wild of the internal combustion engine—which has led both to the closure of the railways and the eradication of hedges, has stone flora. When, as a schoolboy over 30 years ago, I used to cut off almost half of my two-mile journey to the station by trespassing along a section of this track, the banks at this time of the year had been shaved bald by the ploughs at this time. This was not merely in the interests of the tidiness, for which the old Great Western was famed, for on some fine Sunday mornings, a special hay-carting train would load up the fodder for the railway's literal horsepower, where ricks of valuable sedge, a mere 10-yard stretch of this formerly uninteresting embankment held the following colourful concentration of flowers: nettle-leaved bellflower, musk-mallow, white beds, wall rue, willow-herb, St John's Wort, meadow grass, poppy, daisy, campion, great knapweed, tufted vetch, scabious, valerian, white campion, woundwort, marjoram and dewberry.

W.D. CAMPBELL

GENERAL MINH: I would like to see a fair election

PETER JAY in Saigon, Tuesday, meets the General who may oust Thieu

Big Minh, high hopes

It is one of the few quiet places that remain in Saigon. From the terrace of his villa, General Duong Van (big) Minh looks out at a garden filled with the orchids which are his hobby and his pride. Domestic quail, raised for their tiny eggs, chirp in a cage.

General Minh, always popular in Saigon, but almost a recluse since his return from exile in Bangkok three years ago, is a presidential candidate now. And as he gradually becomes once again a public man, the tranquility of his villa is disturbed. Life is more frequently disturbed.

It is highly likely, after all, that General Minh will turn out to be the only opponent permitted by law to run against President Nguyen Van Thieu. The general is doing what he can, however, to help Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky qualify as a candidate in the race.

"I don't support Ky personally," he said in an interview. "But I would like to see a fair election. Let's see if we are a democracy or not. If the Vice-President of the country is not allowed to run."

South Vietnam's new election law requires all presidential candidates, in order to qualify, to secure the support of 100 provincial councilmen or 40 national assembly members. This Minh expects to be able to do—although he said Thieu is making it difficult for him.

But Ky, who in a three-way election could be expected to draw votes from Thieu and increase Minh's chances, will require the endorsement of councilmen favourable to Minh if he is to get on the ballot — and even with Minh's help he may not qualify.

Thieu, Minh said, has used all the machinery of government at his disposal to secure pledges of support from about 400 of the 550 councilmen and from about 100 of the 195 Assemblymen and Senators.

Minh said, as he has often of late, that he has grave doubts that the October 3 election will be fair. If it is, he said, he will gladly support Thieu or anyone else who wins. He did not say what he would do if the election appeared patently dishonest, but remarked that such a development could only be "very helpful for the Communists."

At 55, Minh has changed little from the day nearly 10 years ago when, as President Ngo Dinh Diem's military adviser, he led the coup that deposed Diem and was immediately followed by the President's assassination.

He is running as a peace candidate, and that seems to be the way most Vietnamese

see him. But his plans for peace have been clouded in the vaguest of generalities, and he made them no clearer in this interview.

"It's very simple—if you have a Government supported by the people, you are in a stronger position to negotiate," he said, speaking in slow and careful English but switching, for difficult points, to an interpreter. He has said firmly that he opposes any coalition with the Communists and supports a strong South Vietnamese army.

If elected, he said, "the first order of business would be to prove to the people that there is justice, to make them feel that Government officials are not the agents of oppression or the embodiment of corruption."

Asked to comment on the seven-point proposal advanced ten days ago by the Vietnamese, Minh chuckled. "Madame Binh (Nguyen Thi Binh, the chief Vietnamese negotiator) is very clever," he said. "She knows (the Americans) worry much about prisoners of war, and she is using that. The plan, he said, was vague."

While agreeing that US "troops cannot stay here forever," he said that "careful discussion" will be required between Washington and Saigon before the last American forces are withdrawn. He said he did not mind the

presence of foreign troops in South Vietnam, but objected to the leverage they gave the United States in the affairs of his country.

Minh, a native of the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam, has two considerable assets in the coming election.

First, he is a devout Buddhist in a predominantly Buddhist country that has been resentful for years of its successful and highly-visible Catholic minority. Second, in this nation of divided loyalties he is probably the nearest to a national hero of any living South Vietnamese.

Against that, however, Thieu has all the power of the South Vietnamese administrative establishment—the machinery that Minh has been saying the US, in some unspecified way, should seek to neutralise.

Minh, who remembers Thieu as a colonel who participated reluctantly in the 1963 coup, shows an unusual edge of bitterness in his tone when he talks of the President—although it was Thieu who brought him back from exile. Upon his return, Minh recalls Thieu invited him in for a talk and announced they had discussed a job for Minh. "That was a big lie," he said. "All we talked of was flowers and the weather. He never raised the problems of the nation."



BY JOHN WINDSOR

Peace in our service time

ARMY Basic Mike Landreth had a wad of "Free Culver" stickers already in his pocket when the court-martial jury was sequestered at the US Air Force's 48 Tactical Fighter Wing at Lakenheath, Suffolk, yesterday. He sat in the courtroom office with other court-martial members who were T-shirts bearing the clenched fist symbol of PEACE, the anti-Vietnam war movement. A coloured military cop named Smothers came in for some amiable chit-chat as he passed.

Landreth is 21, bears a Presidential Unit citation ribbon and spent a year in Vietnam which included two months combat duty. He can't get out of the US Air Force quick enough. In 11 months he will be back home with an administrative dis-

charge. In other words, the sack. He claims that PEACE—People Emerging Against Communist Establishments—in which Capt. Culver has been active, has 250 sympathisers in nine American bases in Britain. The group, leaderless and with no formal membership, sprang up a year ago. Its monthly newspaper is handed on US bases but still manages a circulation of 3,500.

Capt. Culver said after his court-martial: "We have held local public meetings, but until now there has been an effort to keep PEACE underground. I gave legal advice on the petition—we felt it was time that people saw we were there. It was something innocuous. We knew the military would not like it, but I never thought they'd arrest me. PEACE is

a strong organisation no matter what the military does to stop it. If it interferes we shall have to go covert, operating completely underground, but it is certainly not going to be suppressed."

"It is quite common," said Landreth, "for airmen to join peace movements when they come back from Vietnam. When I was there I saw how the Vietnamese people are suffering. Our aim is to force opposition to the war, to make people see that it is wrong."

The air-base appears to treat its peacekeepers with an easy tolerance. The peacekeepers claim to be harassed. Sergeant John Kleinfelder is 23 and also has a President's Ribbon. "I'm still only a sergeant because they haven't got me yet," he says. "Tell the people who read the papers they should learn something from this court-martial—it will make all our harassment and punishment worth while. We get closely supervised, tailed by the special investigation department, our rooms are searched, and we are questioned. If we break any regulations we get the sack. I have been put on day shift on my micro-wave equipment so they can keep an eye on me and I was forbidden to go near the trial."

Most have been shipped home. You could say they were "effectively eliminated," but it was what they wanted. A friend of mine had been trying to get out for eight months as a conscientious objector. Then he got interested in PEACE and they had him out in a month. Until I took an interest in PEACE I was considered one of the most outstanding NCOs. Now they rap on at me about having gone astray. I'd like to tell them to get stuffed. I haven't gone astray, I just got sick and tired of it."

JOHN EZARD reports on a new study on epilepsy

A fit case for treatment

EPILEPSY was classified by Hippocrates as "the sacred disease." But a report published yesterday suggests that its victims continue to rival the Jews as one of history's oldest, most underprivileged and tragic minorities.

In 2080 BC King Hammurabi of Babylon forbade epileptics to marry—an unscientific ban still in force in some parts of America. In February this year, the best qualified girl in a London hospital typing pool had an epileptic fit. It transformed the attitude of her workmates from respect and liking to permanent apprehension. The girl suffers from idiopathic epilepsy, a milder form not caused by a brain lesion. In spite of this, she had not told her employers and had stopped taking the pills prescribed for her.

"Obviously," said her doctor, "she desperately wanted to pretend that she was normal to herself and to the people around her. The girls in her office are now so frightened of another fit that it is hard to know what to do with her."

This girl's case was cited when the Office of Health Economics launched a study which paints an alarming picture of "social and psychological disadvantage" among Britain's 300,000 epileptics. It calls for a large Government investment in an advertising campaign to heal their generally needless alienation from normal society.

Three quarters of the fits of three quarters of these sufferers can now be controlled by drugs, the report says. In spite of this, they suffer from social stigmas and failures in diagnosis and treatment which often take root in their school days.

They may be misdiagnosed as chronic epileptics because they suffer from the much commoner condition of febrile convulsion, which most children grow out of by the age of five.

In school, if they are genuinely epileptic they will have special educational problems. But diagnosis and treatment is divided between the GP, hospital and the school medical officer. "Teachers themselves probably only know the minority

of cases," the report says. Out of school, only 8 per cent of the estimated 150,000 epileptics in the workforce are wholly unemployed or unemployable. But three quarters of the total have job problems. OHE says: "The primary cause is rarely the physical affect of the seizures themselves but rather the associated mental and social disturbance and the attitude of workmates."

Many epileptics, like the hospital secretary, try to hide their condition. At one Welsh steel works, only 10 applicants out of 38 later found to have epilepsy admitted the condition at their medical interviews. In a motor works, the figure was as low as two out of 27.

At death epileptics will have had difficulty securing the future of their families, insurance companies require those experiencing between four and six fits a year to pay three times the standard life premium, although it has been shown that an improvement in the frequency of fits is associated with a reduction in mortality rates.

The OHE says it can be proved that epileptics need not have any impairment of intelligence and that "epileptics are quite capable of getting right to the top" if their stigma could be removed.

Mr William Laing, OHE deputy director, said the right kind of British advertising could make a tremendous impact on well being: "We have the possibility of getting a large return, far greater than from any other form of mental treatment, by trying to change the basic attitudes of the public," he added.

The OHE also wants diagnosis and treatment more tightly coordinated from an early age. It believes this would reduce some of the social costs of epilepsy. These include £10 millions a year on treatment, £3 millions on sickness benefit and £12 millions for absence from work.

The office has not made precise recommendations to the Government. But it hopes that this report, like others it has submitted, will be accepted as providing guidelines for action by the Department of Health and Social Security.

MISCELLANY

Market economics

WHATEVER ELSE emerges from Central Hall, Westminster, this hapless Saturday, the Labour Party does look like breaking even on a conference for the first time in Transport House memory. There may even be a tiny profit.

Last year's Blackpool conference cost Labour £11,000 in board, lodging, printing and services for a week. But, as always at seaside centres, the hall and public address system came free from a grateful borough council. On Saturday, the party will pay the Methodists for the hall and loudspeakers, but the printing will be less and there's not much more to account for. Delegates each pay £2 to register and there should be about 1,000.

One expense the party has been spared is an executive lunch. There is no restaurant at Central Hall, but Church House, across the road and behind the Abbey, was willing to open its restaurant if Transport House could guarantee at least 50 luncheoners. The executive was asked, but a majority of its members said they had previous engagements. Plotting over the table with their (pro- or anti-Market) caucus?

Warning fare for Skipper Ted. The Conservative anti-Marketeters held a dinner of the Commons last night. Most of them have been getting worried letters from their constituency chairmen: "Don't rock the boat, old boy." All the same, 30 MPs turned up.

Free verse

ATTLEE the doodler is familiar enough. So is Attlee of the tight lips and clipped Downing Street judgments. But what of Attlee the romantic? Kenneth Harris, of the "Observer," who is about halfway through his authorised biography, is convinced he has unearthed one of the keys to the most recent of our unknown Prime Ministers.

Before he died, Attlee asked Harris to write the book and gave him access to all his papers, deposited at University College, Oxford. They include a diary of the First World War, when Attlee was among the last British troops off the beach at Gallipoli; lots of doodles; few political documents; and a cache of unpublished poems



ATTLEE: romantic figure?

and translations from French and Italian.

Harris, who is looking for Attlee letters anyone else may have kept, says the best of his poems are political ballads (the kind of thing Sagittarius used to write in the "New Statesman"). The others, not so good, run even to love poetry.

Hack flak

MORE FIREWORKS in the office from Keith Hack, the young director of "Titus Andronicus," which opened at the Roundhouse last night amid much gore. Hack, lately of Cambridge, Glasgow Citizens and Berliner Ensemble, has been commissioned by Covent Garden to write a libretto for Thomas Hardy's "The Dynasts" for a Hans Werner Henze opera. He is also working with Edward Bond on adapting Brecht's early anti-Fascist fable, "The Roundheads and the Peasants," renamed "The Heads." It may eventually follow "Titus" at Chalk Farm. Bond has another adaptation, of "King Lear," opening later this year at the Royal Court. The British Council assures Miscellaneous that it has had no application from the Court for money to take "Lear" to Yugoslavia. Sorry.

Home thoughts

IAN SMITH, it seems, is most concerned about the warfare of Rhodesia's African freedom fighters. Salisbury has sent its first diplomatic telegram to Zambia since UDI. It asks for details of the detention of 39 Rhodesian nationalists, so that their families can be informed.

The detainees are all members of the militant Zimbabwe African People's Union, members in fact of the armed wing—the chaps who are sent into the Zambesi valley. Their detention is thought to be an after-effect of inflat-

ing between different ZAPU factions. Kenneth Kaunda's Foreign Ministry is keeping mum about the telegram, except to record that it has nothing to say to the illegal régime south of the border. Kind of Smithy to ask, all the same.

Paper chase

CONGRATULATIONS to Cori Books for the most instant and paperback of them all. Hot from New York and Heathrow, Miscellaneous received its copy of the "Pentagon Papers" last night. It will be on sale this morning.

The book contains the full "New York Times" text, plus Supreme Court decision, and 64 pages of Vietnam news photographs. Not to mention 3,000 words on how the Times did it, and a new review by Neil R. McMillen, chief reporter, on his investigation and its repercussions. Set, bound, and delivered in a hare fortnight since the Supreme Court decision on June 30.

THE FRENCH guide to the Boyer taste report a change in the pattern of trade in the year of the Tories. When Labour was in power, British tourists used to buy thousands of copies of the famous poster "which shops" "Horrid intertextus eat," clinging hopelessly to the orrow in his eye. Apparently, they used to post them to No. 10, suitably inscribed with messages like "Watch it" and "You'll get your desserts." Some, more ominously, said nothing. Sales have dropped off by the hundred.

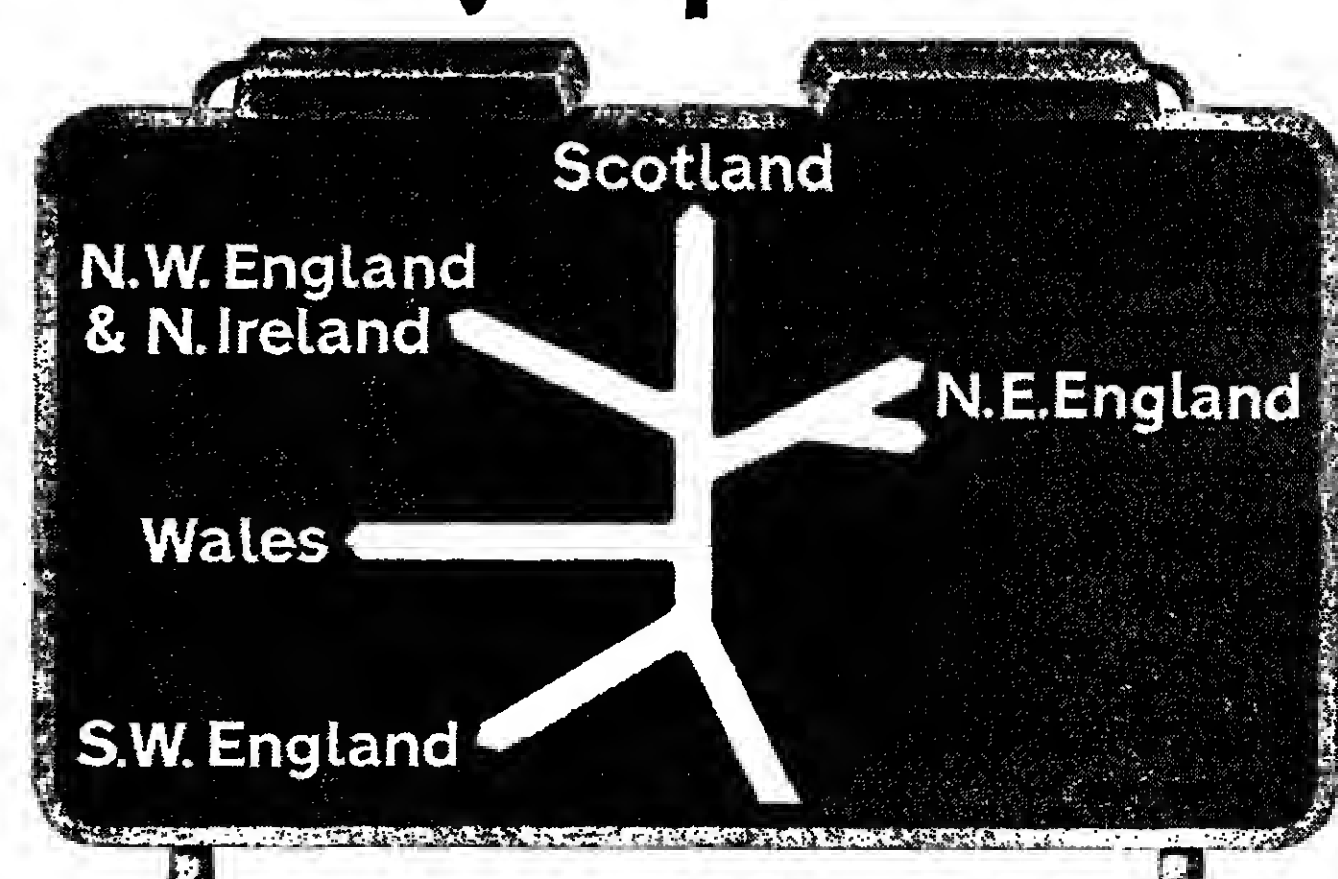
Terrace tremor

A COUPLE of hours before his housing White Paper was published yesterday, Peter Walker was boasting to the clean-minded young Tories of the PEST luncheon club about how great co-ordinating the Department is cleaning up the nation's rivers.

Annual surveys of pollution, national league tables, and all. His dream, he confessed, was of all night sittings where elderly MPs could bring out their rods and lines and fish off the House of Commons terrace.

A touching picture, marred for MPs by the belated discovery that a great sea wall is soon to be built across their summer tea-time rendezvous. Serious London from floods is all very well, but destroying amenity is something different. The terrace was built in 1532, they mutter, and there has been only one flood since.

Today the Areas for Expansion are just up the road



If you think that the Areas for Expansion are at the back of beyond, you need to catch up with the new situation created by transport developments in recent years. For example - Glasgow, Newcastle, Cardiff and Liverpool are now all within easy reach of London by motorway or Inter City rail services. Just check the journey times.

So a separate works in one of these Areas need not mean managers being away from their normal bases for long spells nor problems in supplying customers promptly. These Areas consist of the Development Areas, the Special Development Areas, the Intermediate Areas and Northern Ireland.

Freightliner services, roll-on and roll-off shipping and container services have also transformed the movement of goods to and from the Areas for Expansion—and the less congested local roads which link them to the motorways, railways, seaports and airports give a further advantage.

Other benefits to be gained from these Areas include plenty of room to expand, readily available labour and cash grants. With so many incentives your company could be well placed to achieve its aims for future growth—just by moving up the road.

For more information on the Areas for Expansion get in touch with us at "Industrial Expansion" at the Department of Trade and Industry. We aim to provide industrialists with the impartial help they need in finding the right location for a successful project.

Filling in the coupon is all you need to do to start getting the facts at your fingertips. Why not do it now? Or telephone 01-222 7877 Ext 3333.

Certain areas hitherto designated as Development Areas have now been made Special Development Areas and a few new areas have been given Intermediate Area status.

Post to: Industrial Expansion, (G12) Department of Trade & Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Please send me literature describing the benefits available in the Areas for Expansion.

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BUSINESS GUARDIAN
Guardian City Offices: 831 Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.2
Edited by Anthony Harris, and Charles Raw

BELL'S
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After ye go

Buyers burst 400 barrier

THE BUYING SPREE gathered momentum on the London Stock Exchange yesterday, and the "Financial Times" index broke the 400 barrier for the first time since May 11, closing 413 points up at 402.7.

Equities enjoyed their busiest day for some time, with the institutions active. Gains were widespread and often exaggerated by acute shortage of stock, so, perhaps inevitably, profit-takers moved in late to clip prices by a penny or two.

Market optimism stems, of course, from hopes that Government moves to stimulate the economy are near.

Operators point to gloomy production figures for May and to the Chancellor's recently declared intention to give a final judgment on the need for further reflationary moves after the Treasury's short-term forecast (expected later this month), which should give a clearer indication of whether the economy is moving towards the Budget target of a 3 per cent growth.

The market received an additional boost with the midday announcement of a £39 millions trade surplus in June.

Gilt, too, benefited from the June trade figures, though they suffered from a late bout of profit-taking. Nevertheless, the large early demand left gains stretching to 3 points at the longer end of the market.

Though often below the best leading shares were still drawing additional strength from EEC prospects. ICI mirrored the trend with a 13p jump to 50p, having been up to 310p at one stage.

Stores were in splendid form. Debenhams led with an 8p spurt to 223p.

Bargains marked totalled 12,696, compared with 12,061 on Monday and 11,695 the previous Tuesday.

The pound

| Closing | Market Rates | Previous |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| N York | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Frankfurt | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Paris | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Geneva | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Basle | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Brussels | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Amsterdam | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Stockholm | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Copenhagen | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Helsinki | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| Oslo | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |
| London | 2.114-2.115 | 2.114-2.115 |

Bank of England official limit on US dollar 2.114-2.115. Investment dollar premium 2.114-2.115. Forward rates: 3 months 2.114-2.115, 6 months 2.114-2.115, 12 months 2.114-2.115.

City pressure forced DTI into publishing

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday published the report of the special inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of Pergamon Press in spite of the strenuous efforts of Mr Robert Maxwell, founder and former chairman of the company, to prevent publication.

The highly critical report of over 200 pages also covers the affairs of the International Learning Systems Corporation, the company Pergamon formed with the British Printing Corporation (BPC) to sell encyclopaedias door-to-door throughout the world.

Both Mr Maxwell and BPC yesterday issued writs against the Department.

We publish below extracts from the main conclusions of the report. As far as Pergamon Press is concerned this is only an interim report. It does not deal, for instance, with the transactions between Pergamon Press and MSI Incorporated, Maxwell's US company. Nor does it produce any conclusions on the rôle of Pergamon's auditors, Chalmers Impey. This will be dealt with in the final report.

The report has been with the Department since June 7. There has clearly been considerable heart-searching within the Ministry before it found the courage to publish. Clearly strong pressure from the City and in particular the take-over panel, which called for the official inquiry back in late 1969, helped Mr John Davies to make up his mind. Mr Maxwell claimed yesterday that he had only 24 hours' notice of the decision to publish.

Information which they might reasonably have expected with regard to Pergamon's interest in and relation to International Learning Systems Corporation Limited (ILSC).

In our opinion, the information which they were given was untrue and that any person receiving the information would have been misled by it and would have thought that the venture, in spite of early difficulties of a usual kind, was reasonably successful, whereas it was in fact utterly disastrous.

In this report we have not commented on Chalmers Impey's position as auditors of Pergamon in relation to the accounts of Pergamon at December 31, 1968.

The impression we have gained during the course of our enquiries is that Mr Maxwell expected his executives to carry out his instructions to the letter and nothing more and not to doubt or question the wisdom of their instructions. It is difficult to envisage how any worthwhile executive could operate for long under such conditions.

Any report on the conduct of affairs of ILSC must necessarily amount to a report on Mr Maxwell's stewardship. He is a man of great energy, drive and imagination, but unfortunately an apparent fixation as to his own abilities causes him to ignore the views of others if these are not compatible. This is very evident in the recurrent (and frequent) changes of personnel in ILSC which were one of the factors which contributed to the disaster. Neither his fellow directors, nor professional advisers, or his employees were able to sway his views and actions. The concept of a board being responsible for policy was alien to him.

Mr Maxwell maintained that he put financial and legal matters to his professional advisers. This we cannot accept. He has an unusually acute appreciation of financial and accounting matters and is not afraid to enter into agreements of far-reaching effect without legal advice. The evidence we have received convinces us that no major decision on financial or business policy was made in ILSC or Pergamon without his approval and they were usually his decisions.

We are also convinced that Mr Maxwell regarded his stewardship duties as fulfilled by showing the maximum profits which any transaction could be devised to show. Furthermore, in reporting to shareholders and investors he had a reckless and unjustified optimism which enabled him on some occasions to disregard unpalatable facts and on others to state what he must have known was untrue.

We regret having to conclude that, notwithstanding Mr Maxwell's acknowledged abilities and energy, he is not in our opinion a person who can be relied on to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly quoted company.



Mr Maxwell at yesterday's press conference.

NatWest purchase cheers rivals

By PETER RODGERS, Technology Correspondent

National Westminster is to pay £750,000 for the Kegworth, Derbyshire, headquarters of Systems International, which went bankrupt in March owing more than £1,000,000 in the wake of its parent, Rolls-Royce.

The sale will be excellent news for S.I.'s creditors, who include Lloyds and Midland Bank. NatWest is expected to use the buildings as a computer-processing centre for Northern branches, which will be gradually linked directly through telephone lines.

This may mean the phasing-out of other data-processing centres—Bradford and Birmingham could be affected—but the bank refused to comment on this yesterday.

Lloyds and Midland were minor shareholders in SI with £170,000 each, but they also emerged as the company's biggest creditors. Lloyds owed £338,000, and Midland £279,000.

The Kegworth building cost about £1 million because of its specialised flooring, air conditioning, and other facilities needed to house computers. This rather limited potential buyers to big computer users.

The receiver, Mr G. A. Wells, of Cork, Gully, will be happy to get three-quarters of the cost back, because if no computer users had been interested, the price might have been far less.

In March Mr Wells described the SI headquarters as "more luxurious than was strictly necessary." But it was also designed for future expansion.

Rolls owed its subsidiary £390,000, but some of this may come back to SI creditors. Unsecured SI creditors were owed £1,240,000, and preference creditors £52,474.

CITY COMMENT

Warning on takeovers

THE STOCK EXCHANGE Council said yesterday it will issue a statement reminding its members of the provisions of the City code on takeovers and mergers relating to associate dealings.

There is more behind the circular than simply evidence of the growing uneasiness between the panel and the Stock Exchange.

The particular part of the City code to which the council refers in its circular is the section demanding that where members have dealings in the shares of firms involved in takeover bids on behalf of an associate the transaction must be reported not later than 12 noon on the following dealing day.

The circular also stresses that the definition of an "associate" includes any party holding 10 per cent or more of the shares of either the offeror or offeree.

Recently there have been a number of cases in which firms "forgot" to report associate deals. Slater Walker Securities, for example, wrote a public letter of apology to the panel in one case.

But it seems that the practice has been growing since the stock exchange issued its last reminder on the subject in July 1970.

In most cases the infringements have not been publicised. It is hard to believe, but some brokers are using ignorance as an excuse. Others are simply not bothering to inquire too deeply of clients dealing in takeover situations whether associates are involved.

There have also been cases where disclosure has been made later than the permitted time. Yesterday's circular can best be interpreted as a "warning shot." It will be effective, however, only if the Stock Exchange is prepared to back it.

LRC

Drugs to lift irresponsibles

LRC International feels that takeover suggestions which have sent the shares back towards levels reached in the 1968-69 bull market are "irresponsible."

Yesterday they reached 126p, double the 1970 low, and word is going round that the £4 millions forecast will be exceeded by a wide margin. This seems unlikely, as the prediction—made in May—came two months after the 1970-71 accounts had been completed.

One bull-point the market scarcely recognises is the progress made on two ethical drugs both of which could achieve multi-million pound sales. One breaks up cholesterol; the other treats enlarged prostate gland. There has not yet been an approved drug for either purpose.

The drugs, derived from the same underlying polymer drug were developed at LRC's US subsidiary Julius Schmidt. This company's main business, like that of LRC, is latex contraceptives.

Sir Edward Howard, LRC's joint deputy chairman, expects the prostate gland drug to be marketed in Britain next year and the cholesterol drug in 1973. American authorities normally take longer than British to make up their minds about newly-developed drugs—

Warning on takeovers

as Fisons found with Intel—but this could be in LRC's favour.

The American authorities have subsidised research, but while Schmidt's 1967 discovery put it some two years ahead of competitors, the US pharmaceutical giants are fast catching up. By obtaining approval for the prostate drug in Britain, LRC could gain an important competitive lead in international markets.

Side-effect snags are evidently being overcome—in some instances it produces nausea—by the addition of "buffering agents," and the group is much more confident than it was this time last year that the drug will eliminate the need for surgery in most cases.

These developments, which should be detailed for the first time in LRC's forthcoming annual report, do not justify any increase in the company's share price.

But they should give comfort to those who are now buying the stock—for different reasons—on a multiple of some 19 times expected 1970-71 earnings.

FMC

No excuses needed

FOR ONCE, Sir John Stratton, chairman of FMC, the former Fastlock Marketing Corporation, will not have to devote a lot of his annual report to unforeseen factors which have adversely affected profits.

In the past few years Sir John has had to explain how things like foot and mouth disease, dock strikes, the state of the bacon industry, and the National Farmers' Union ban on live-stock sales, have prevented the turning-in of a profit appropriate to the group's size and turnover.

But yesterday Sir John was able to announce an impressive 92 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, and a 50 per cent increase in the 1970-71 dividend. The profit, £1,741,485, is the highest since FMC went public in 1962, and compares with £1,005,007 in 1969-70. The dividend is 12 per cent against 8 per cent the previous year.

The main boost has come from pigs, bacon, and processed goods, fresh meat and by-products also had a profitable year. But, because of fowl pest—which would have been a useful excuse if the overall results had been bad—FMC has taken a "sizeable loss" on poultry.

Sir John says results can be taken as "a trend reasonably well set for 1971-72" and that the group is not likely to do worse during this year. But he was not to be drawn on the effects should Britain go into the Common Market.

He says that not enough details are available yet. A market of 10 nations in FMC's line of business would be a far different matter from a market of six or seven. But though Sir John is not saying anything yet, he has done his homework.

FMC has been gearing up for Europe—whether Britain goes into the Common Market or not. Acquisitions in Europe are certainly a possibility. The 12 per cent dividend is not over-generous as it is covered 3.75 times. FMC is talking with someone at the moment, although Sir John would give no hints. There is also talk of a rights issue in the future. Though FMC already has some export ties with Europe, an acquisition there would be a big departure from tradition.

However, such a step might well please the farmers who make up the bulk of FMC's shareholders.

If, as many feel, they are going to feel the pinch once Britain goes into the Common Market, they will not be unhappy about cashing in on the profits of European farmers—especially if some of those farmers are benefiting from Britain's proposed contribution to the budget.

Fears that Third World will lose if UK joins Six

By TOM TICKELL

Concern that the world's developing countries would lose heavily from British entry into the Common Market is the major theme in the report of the Overseas Development Institute on its conference about the implications of British entry, published today.

Lord Campbell of Eskan, the former chairman of Booker McConnell, called for "the enlarged Community to 'take what is best from all the individual countries' policies towards the third world—the highest common factor not the lowest common denominator" but outside the officials many people seemed sceptical.

The most immediate issue is the generalised preferences scheme, under which the industrialised countries have agreed to take more of the developing world's manufactured and semi-manufactured imports.

Britain's offer is considerably more generous than that made by the Common Market, which offers duty-free entry to manufactured goods, subject to an extremely tight quota. The Community would import as much as it took in 1968, plus each year an extra 5 per cent of what it imported from the rest of the world in the previous year.

The EEC Commission is proud that it has made no exceptions in its offer, unlike Britain which has excluded some textiles, but only a vague clause for imposing limits if domestic manufacturers are threatened.

The same is true of the semi-manufactured goods—such as grey cloth—for though the Community's tariffs will be cut, they will remain considerably higher than Britain's will be. So generalised preferences are exactly the sort of issue where Lord Campbell's call for raised standards should apply.

However, one expert yesterday suggested that Britain was ten times as likely to accept the Common Market's position as it was to take up a more liberal stance. After all, undoing a complex package that has been laboriously put together is far more awkward than bringing one applicant's offer into line with it.

Complaints by the Confederation of British Industry last month that it had not been consulted on the British proposals and that it wanted tougher safeguards means that it is likely to bring its weight down on the Commission's side.

The Common Market's offer is now open, but the whole scheme may not get off the ground for the Americans have refused to give generalised preferences to any country which offers reverse preferences in exchange for privileged access to the EEC.

Congress has not passed the legislation which has to be accepted before the US can take part and it seems increasingly hostile to any moves for liberalising trade.

The two countries most obviously affected by British entry are going to be India and Pakistan, with a combined population of nearly 700 million. Some ten times the numbers of people living in the Yaounde countries. They will lose their Commonwealth preference in Britain, and their only consolation would be the Community's restricted generalised preferences scheme.

The Indians are already very worried about the impact that Britain's shift from a quota system—with India getting a guaranteed share of the market—to a general tariff scheme, which is less valuable even though it still favours Commonwealth producers.

The smaller Commonwealth states have done much better particularly in sugar, but there are still difficulties.

Mr Robert Wood who is director of studies at the Overseas Development Institute points out that if the Community runs true to form the new associates will have to offer some preferences in return, which could make a very awkward choice for the Caribbean states with their American markets perhaps jeopardised by such a move.

If Spain and Portugal are included in the developing countries, Britain probably imports more from the Third World than do all the Six. But this is not all a matter of policy for patterns of employment are also responsible.

The Common Market's rates of investment are higher than Britain, and though this is a matter for particular Government, and not for the Commission, the Eurocrats are concerned about the problem.

Pearson set to buy out Penguin

S. Pearson, the publishing and printing group controlled by Lord Coward, has agreed terms for buying the remaining shares in Penguin Publishing it does not already own.

The terms, agreed with Schroder Wagg, the independent advisers called in to look after the interests of Penguin minority shareholders, put an effective price of 375p on each Penguin share—well above the 280p that Pearson said it would originally bid.

US partner for Superdrug

Rite Aid Corporation of America, which controls 220 drug stores throughout the United States, has established a base in Britain in partnership with Superdrug Stores, the self-service drug shops chain.

The Goldsteio family, which owns Superdrug, has sold Rite Aid a 50 per cent stake which values their company, with its 36 branches in and around London at over £1 million.

W. CROWTHER & SONS LTD.
(Brick Manufacturers)
Extracts from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. Mark Radwin
Net trading profit for the year ended 31st March 1971 amounted to £148,632 against £46,083. A final dividend of 30% is recommended, making 45% for the year against 17 1/2%.
The favourable trend to sales at the half-way stage of the mild weather. New output for the company's products were vigorously expanded and new brick-making plants were installed during the period under demand.
The present trading position is still buoyant and the Board is hopeful that this mood of confidence, particularly in the private sector of the building industry, will continue to take advantage of these conditions.
Registered Office: Stopped Works, Little Lever, Bolton.

£2M bid for Westminster
An offer worth about £2 millions is being made for Westminster Property and Investment by Mr David Lewis, who, together with associates, controls 7 per cent of the issued capital. He is offering 110p per share.
Moore's Stores beats bad start
Moore's Stores, the Newcastle-based retail trader, recovered from its 22 per cent drop in interim profit as final results show profit increased 6 per cent to £581,000, pre-tax for the full year to March.
The dividend total is maintained at 61 per cent with a final payment of 44 per cent.

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World stock markets show growing bullish trends

Most stock markets outside the United States turned bullish in the first half of 1971. Nine out of 12 advanced, two showed significant declines, while one remained practically unchanged. The London market was in the first category—at the end of June it was almost back to the pinnacle it reached after the general election a year before. ROBERT GILBERT reviews the situation as seen from Wall Street.

Confirming the widespread improvement, the International Index of the "blue chips" of the world, the Amro-Pierson average of 50 leading shares (including some in the US), showed a solid rise. Its performance far exceeded that of Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial index.

The strength generally seems to have reflected that of the national currency involved, at least until the crisis of early May. Thus, through the first four months of 1971, the West German, Swiss and Japanese markets gave a good account of themselves. While the first two exchanges declined slightly after revaluation, Japan's bull market continued.

If revaluation of the yen cannot be avoided, Japanese shares should be watched closely. The Netherlands market has held on to its gain, perhaps because the harm to its exports from the revaluation is expected to be offset in large measure by the advance in the mark, an important trading unit for the Dutch. The Swiss currently consider the Netherlands an attractive place in which to invest.

TOKYO market posted a 33.2 per cent advance by June, with shares rising steadily until then. Since that time they have started to leap forward on various plans of the Government to keep the yen stable. Revenues for the year have risen as sharply as the Tokyo market. They exceed \$7,000 million, far ahead of the \$4,800 million at the end of last year. The build-up apparently continues in spite of a fall in output, notably of steel. The production index in May was 214, down 4.5 points from April, below the average of 221 for the fiscal year 1970, and short of the target of 247 for the current year. To counteract the business recession, the Bank of Japan in May cut its rate from 5.75 to 5.5 per cent.

To defend the yen's parity, the Japanese Government has announced an eight-point programme to liberalise trade and corporate investment, and also to initiate Japanese purchases of foreign securities, delighting the Tokyo market.

The best performers have been the marine-fare insurance stocks. Favourable for their portfolios, they also attracted waves of buying when the Government enforced near-across-the-board cuts in earnings. In the first half, Tokyo Marine rose from 289 to 611, Taisho Marine from 149 to 325, Sony rose by two-thirds, or from 2,275 to 3,750, while Toyota Motor jumped from 221 to 480, Nissan from 142 to 229, and Honda from 130 to 209. Matsushita Electric rose from 338 to 604. In contrast, steel, textiles, and heavy industries did little.

The 14.9 per cent rise in SWITZERLAND was the second largest move. Although the change in the franc value shocked many Swiss, the market has now recovered somewhat. Perhaps the proposal to eliminate interest payments on foreign deposits has helped sentiment.

Capital raised
Shares of the major Swiss banks, one of the best acting groups, have resumed their climb. Swiss Bank at mid-June was 3,475, up from 2,950; Credit Suisse 3,425, from 3,000; CIBA-Geigy rose to 2,515 from 2,265. Hoffman got to 177,000 from 163,000. The banks, chemicals, and food all raised additional capital this year. Many of the known Swiss shares, such as Nestlé and Brown Boveri, were almost unchanged.

At a time when the cost of living is rising rapidly and industrial backlogs are declining, the NETHERLANDS has chosen a Right-centre government. The Amsterdam Bourse liked the change, although it took seven weeks of negotiations to form a cabinet. The new Government's programme includes a cut in public spending, possibly one reason for the current Swiss interest in Dutch securities. A report on the Dutch economy prior to the formation of the Government said final quarter production was up 13 per cent but heavy industry was worried about lagging orders. Wages in effect are rising by 13 per cent, and prices rose 4.5 per cent in the early months of 1971. The balance of trade improved. Philips Lamp and Royal Dutch were almost unchanged in the first six months. However, Unilever rose from 88 to 112. Some lesser-known shares performed well: Heineken to 270 from 195; Albert Heijn, 181 from 147; Algemeen Bank, 260 from 238; Rijn-Schede, 203 from 157.

sumers goods (up 5.1 per cent instead of the expected 5.1 per cent) than on investment (up 6 per cent instead of the target of 7.4 per cent). Perhaps the stagnation of the Bourse is due in part to new issues, which have been running 60 per cent ahead of 1970. Sentiment for more widespread investment is being helped by President Pompidou, who has implemented the plan to distribute to the workers shares in State-owned companies like Renault.

In AUSTRIA, the Vienna Bourse is broadening as the country's prosperity continues. The Inter-American Development Bank successfully floated a bond issue in Austria and Shell and ITT have been listed for trading in Vienna. A Socialist Government took power but produced a budget which abolished the sales tax on cars. The gross national product was expected to be up 5 per cent in the first half year.

Tax reform
CANADIAN markets gave a cold reception to the federal tax proposals made last month after more than a year of hearings. While the measure was said to be aimed at stimulating business, the Finance Minister has indicated that he thought Canada's prosperity rested on domestic consumer demand rather than industrial growth and exports. Yet in 1970 exports were equivalent to 23 per cent of the country's gross national product. Both the petroleum and the mining industries have expressed severe disappointment with threatened restraints on basic development by the proposed "reform".

The lethargy of the FRENCH market contrasts with encouraging economic figures. Industrial production is up 5.7 per cent, exports 9.1 per cent, and gross domestic product about 10 per cent. Although the cost of living is rising by 4.7 per cent, instead of the 3 per cent hoped for, the Government has started to set selective price ceilings. Business activity centres more on consumer goods (up 5.1 per cent instead of the expected 5.1 per cent) than on investment (up 6 per cent instead of the target of 7.4 per cent). Perhaps the stagnation of the Bourse is due in part to new issues, which have been running 60 per cent ahead of 1970. Sentiment for more widespread investment is being helped by President Pompidou, who has implemented the plan to distribute to the workers shares in State-owned companies like Renault.

Major mining finance houses have interests other than gold which sometimes influences the price of their stocks. Johannesburg Consolidated is raising its dividend in spite of a heavy commitment in depressed platinum. While Anglo-American Industrial Portfolio suffered a decline of 5.9 per cent last year, the Johannesburg market has recovered half its drop.

Swiss say UK is set to boom

From our Correspondent
Geneva, July 13

The promise of a bright economic future for Britain has not been so bright for a long time. This is what the extremely conservative and usually accurate magazine of the "Credit Suisse"—one of Switzerland's Big Three banking consortiums—reports today.

It also recommends to those who read it to invest in Britain although the situation is particularly "uncertain" with rising unemployment, prices and salaries. "But certain indications point to the fact that the crest of the wave has been reached. Large portions of the labour force do not want to strike and this attitude will be reinforced by the Industrial Relations Bill."

The bank adds that rising salaries are decreasing in rate and, in the long run, this will have favourable repercussions on prices. "If that happens, the Government is disposed to loosen with prudence its restrictive economic policy."

Such an action has been eased, the "Credit Suisse" states, by the favourable balance of payments Britain has been showing. Especially noted is a strong advance in the balance of trade.

"Further, Britain has reduced its foreign military expenditure, and its monetary reserves in May reached a post-war record of \$3,500 millions. Thus Britain finds itself in a favourable situation for an expansionist policy."

But the article states that on the internal side, in view of the possible Common Market entry, Britain must reinforce its economic position.

The "Credit Suisse" recommends several companies in Britain for Continental investment. They are Rank, ICI, Distillers, BP, British Leyland, British American Tobacco, and the Beecham Group.

Fred and his loaf pose a problem

By STEWART FLEMING

It is difficult sometimes to take the advertising industry seriously. Who would think that a firm could spend almost two years asking 1,500 housewives their opinions on a loaf of bread—its size, shape, colour, and whether they preferred a crusty loaf to a doughy one, before even test launching it? But this is exactly what Spillers has done with its new Homepride loaf and when one looks at the background to the decision it is not difficult to see why the company has gone to the trouble.

It all revolves, you see, around Fred. Fred, you may recall, is the miracle worker who helped to push Spillers' share of the flour market from the 8 per cent held in 1962 to the position of brand leader with a 30 per cent share of the market in 1970. In the process he and his fellow black coated, bowler-hatted flour sifters became household names. So did the slogan "Graded grains make finer flour."

Fred's success, you might think, would make him an automatic choice as the advertising gimmick to launch thousand new products. Spillers, after all, has been badly in need of miracles. In the past couple of years, its profits have slumped from a peak of £10.7 million in 1968/69 to only £5.5 million in 1970/71.

Perhaps it is a testimony to the hoard's reluctance to grab what must have looked like an easy answer to some of its problems that the company resisted the temptation to simply cash in on Fred's public image. It probably is not quite as simple as this, however. Certainly as early as 1966, barely two years after the Geers Group advertising agency gave birth to Fred, Spillers was thinking of launching a Homepride loaf.

Spillers itself will not elaborate on the reasons why the idea was turned down, but it seems that the grocery division, which was responsible for Fred, and his band of flour-sifters, was most reluctant to have their

Isuzu stake for GM

General Motors has agreed to pay \$56.3 million for a 34.2 per cent interest in Isuzu Motors the Japanese car manufacturer.

The two companies, which had previously reached agreement on GM's percentage share, are scheduled to sign a final agreement on July 16 in Tokyo, Isuzu said.

Plans call for Isuzu to increase its capital by 260 million shares, all of which will be purchased by GM at a price of 31.7 cents per share. Isuzu's shares closed on Monday on the Tokyo stock exchange at 24.5 cents, unchanged from Saturday's close. Isuzu's total capitalisation following GM's purchase will be \$505.6 million.

Following the signing on Friday, the two companies will submit their formal tie-up proposal to the Japanese Government for approval. This is expected before autumn because the two companies' plans now meet all the conditions required by the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and because the foreign investment council has already approved Chrysler Corporation's plan to acquire 35 per cent of Mitsubishi Motor Corporation.

Talks on nickel lease

Directors of Meekatharra Minerals confirmed yesterday that discussions were being held with Australian and foreign companies on possible exploitation of laterite nickel ore at its Marlborough, Queensland, leases.

Directors said any agreement was dependent on proving reserves.

The statement was issued following a rise in price of the company's shares to a peak of \$42.10 yesterday from 39 cents a week ago. It dropped to \$41.80 on Sydney Stock Exchange after the statement was released.

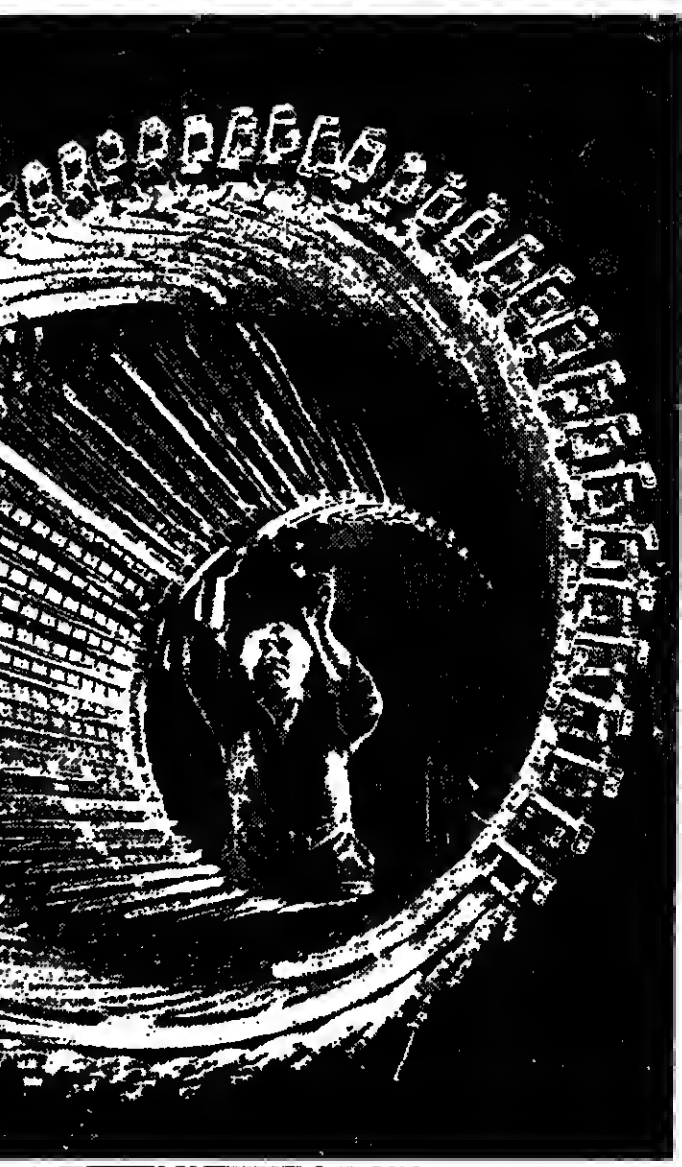
Hollywood giants regroup

Major United States motion-picture production companies are considering consolidating facilities to revitalise the ailing industry.

Warner Bros. and Columbia Pictures announced last month that Columbia would close, sell its studios, and move into Warner Bros. studios next April.

Since then almost every major studio has been involved in negotiations.

Mr Ted Leonard, vice-president of Paramount Studio Properties said: "We were talking to Columbia before Columbia made the deal with Warner. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer was talking over a full-fledged merger with Twentieth Century-Fox. When that fell through, Twentieth Century-Fox was talking about combining with Paramount. Now Paramount is



World fleet tonnage up again

The world's merchant fleet expanded by 7.5 per cent to 224,260,500 gross registered tons at mid-1970, from 208,352,500 gross registered tons a year earlier, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said in Paris yesterday.

Tankers accounted for 96,005,500 gross registered tons, up from 77,260,200 gross registered tons, an increase of 11.3 per cent.

The OECD countries' fleet (excluding Great Lakes tonnage) accounted for 64.2 per cent of the world's total, with 143,946,700 gross registered tons. They are Rank, ICI, Distillers, BP, British Leyland, British American Tobacco, and the Beecham Group.

Japan's merchant fleet remained the largest among OECD members with 27,003,700 gross registered tons, followed closely by the United Kingdom with 25,824,900 gross registered tons.

Norway was third with 18,246,900 gross registered tons, followed by the United States (excluding Great Lakes) with 16,721,600 and Greece with 10,962,000 gross registered tons.

The OECD report notes that US, Canadian, and Japanese ownership of tonnage under flags of convenience.—AP-Dow Jones.

—but it's not all busy!

World shipping awaiting employment on July 7 totalled 768,858 tons—more than twice the figure for the same date last year, and 136,049 tons more than a month ago, according to figures issued today by the UK Chamber of Shipping.

British shipping standing idle totalled 39,527 tons. Worst hit was the United States, with a total of 201,146 tons. Greek ships awaiting employment totalled 149,764 tons. Liberia had 82,791 of unemployed shipping and Argentina 73,470 tons.

Tankers order for Devon

Two coastal tankers, ordered by Shell-Mex and BP from Appleford Shipbuilders of Bideford, North Devon, a subsidiary of Court Line, are under construction. It now includes three hopper barges for Brazil, three s and dredgers, four other coastal tankers, and a container ship.

The latest tankers, of 2,000 tons deadweight, will be built in a new, totally enclosed shipyard, for delivery by January, 1973.

Company news briefs

Interim results
Wetson and Philip: 13 pc (11). Profit 178,590 (149,780) after tax of 552,573 (1240,750).
A. E. Jenks and Cattell: 3 pc (same).
Brunner Investment Trust: 5 pc. Revenue earned on ordinary stock 220,819 (121,855).
Scottish and Mercantile Investment: 5 pc (same).
United British Securities: Second interim 171 pc making 221 pc (22 pc). Net revenue after tax 21,250,753 (13,310,478).
Asbdown Investment Trust: Revenue before tax 118,000 (118,700), tax 57,775 (11,000).

Points from reports
Wolverhampton Steam Laundry: Chairman looks forward in better result for current year, but warns that a very substantial price claim is at present pending.
James Cropper and Co.: Chairman says that if trading conditions do not improve by autumn, group

is likely to find it very difficult to match results of past two years. But as a result of modernisation programme, group will be in strong position to benefit from resumption of demand for paper.
W. Crowther and Sons: Chairman Mr Mark Radwin, says first three months of current financial year have been satisfactory. Profit increase over last year, and turnover very much increased. Provided the weather and conditions in building trade continue as at present, very good year is in prospect.

Business changes
Kalamazoo: Mr C. P. Cakebread appointed managing director from August 1 succeeding Mr T. B. Morland who will retire as managing director but remain chairman. Mr P. J. Rex and Mr R. C. Thomas also join board from same date.
Final results
Levers Optical: 5 pc (same). Profit 110,088 (89,382) after tax of 57,600 (49,500).
Bids and deals
Capital and Counties Property: Acceptances received for approximately 19,420,000 of stock in response to rights issue of 210,000,405 91 pc unsecured loan stock 1991-96 with warrants to subscribe for ordinary. Applications for about 16,810,000 excess stock also received.

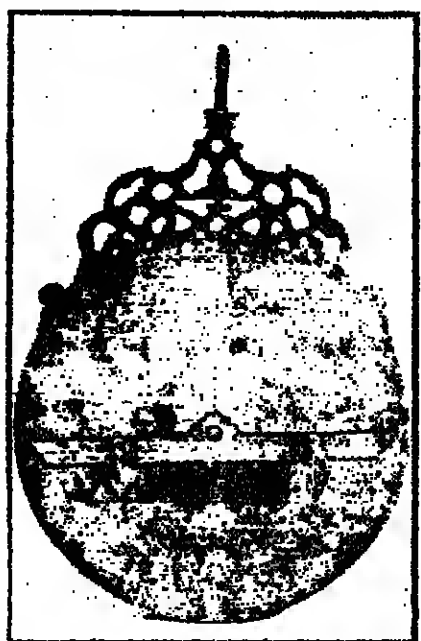
Carpet firm prospers
A. W. Securities, the Bradford carpets group, has more than maintained its interim forecast of "a satisfactory upward trend," and profits, sales, and dividend all show a major increase.
Pre-tax profit are up 57 per cent at £1.9 millions—on a 43 per cent increase in turnover—to £16.2 millions for the year ended March.
The board is raising the dividend total from 11 1/2 per cent to 15 per cent, with a final payment of 9 1/2 per cent. It is still covered a healthy 1.86 times. Earnings per share increased by a full 60 per cent to 2.8p per

share. With the shares up a further 2p yesterday at 36p this leaves a price-earnings ratio of 12.4.
Profits were achieved after exceptional losses of £166,000 on the closure of the furnishing fabric activities.
There was a loss of £54,000 on disposal of some Axminster looms and £95,000 to account for the goodwill of Clifton Warehouses, now closed down. These two items have been written off from reserves.
The board forecasts that there will be a further substantial profits increase in the current year.

CTIONS AND COLLECTIONS by Donald Wintersgill

Playing the scientific instruments

ANTIQUE scientific instruments have different kinds of appeal for collectors. They are often magnificent as works of craftsmanship; they are at the same time usually economic and practical in form, being for specific purposes and often of great scientific value. They are also a challenge to the collector, who must be able to identify them, to know their history and to know how to use them.



An Islamic brass astrolabe of the eighteenth century, 8 1/2 inches in diameter (Christie's).

The sun's apparent motion is of the basis of measuring time. The sun's position in the sky at any time can be determined by the use of a sundial. The sundial is a simple instrument which can be made for any place and any time. It is a device which shows the time of day by the position of the sun in the sky. The sundial is a simple instrument which can be made for any place and any time. It is a device which shows the time of day by the position of the sun in the sky.

Astrolabes are flat representations of the armillary sphere; they are rare, highly prized, and much sought after. The Arabs brought astrolabes to a fine perfection because they were needed for astronomical predictions and for determining the correct time for the five daily prayers of Islam. Astrolabes also, more scientifically, locate the positions of the stars at any given time in the past, present, or future by means of movable discs. This instrument was superseded in the use of mathematical calculations.

Hour-glasses are used nowadays for the mundane purpose of timing eggs; but they have also had their appeal when they timed the sermons of Scottish divines. Fancier varieties have several different double bulbs, for different lengths of time—three hours, one hour, half an hour, and fifteen minutes; but it must have been a full-time job to keep an eye on the instrument and turn the hour-glasses over. It is sometimes hard enough to boil an egg.

Navigation depends on a fixing position through observation of the sun or the stars; and backstaffs, sextants, and their variants, chronometers, and other instruments were devised and refined. They had to undergo rough usage, and as some specimens, such as the backstaff for taking the angle of the sun, are rare, and appropriately costly.

Measuring areas of land produced instruments for taking angles such as trigonometry. Some knowledge of mathematics is essential to understand the workings of such things as reflecting, holometers, planimeters, graphometers, and clinometers.

A clinometer would hardly be practical for a modern surveyor, but microscopes and telescopes of the nineteenth century can be collected and used. It is important to make sure that the instrument does not take some vital part, because the cost of getting a craftsman to make a replacement, or even a repair, can be more than the object is worth.

Brass is a common material in scientific instruments. It gets dirty but does not acquire a beautiful patina as bronze does; so it can be polished. Collectors in this field are fortunate because instruments are far apart from the astrolabes, are rare,

AUCTIONS AND COLLECTIONS

PHILLIPS

1971

IMER EXHIBITION

Century Paintings, Drawings, and other objects of art.

July 15, at 3.30 pm

Houghton Hall, near Preston

NE FIELD, TWO MILLS

AGE THREE FLOORS

RECTOR PROPERTIES

SALE 10% DEPOSIT

ROCHELLE 40616

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Century Paintings, Drawings, and other objects of art.

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7, Blemeth Street, New Bond Street, London, W1Y 0AS.

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PHILLIPS, SON & NEALE

BUSINESS

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

CITY OF MANCHESTER

TENDERS FOR THE CITY OF MANCHESTER

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SITUATIONS

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* Advise and assist those wishing subsequently to

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You are welcome to attend informal interviews

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SOUTHPORT Prince of Wales Hotel, Monday, July 19, 5 to 8 p.m.

STOCKPORT Beigrade Hotel, Monday, July 19, 5 to 8 p.m.

CHESTER Grosvenor Hotel, Tuesday, July 20, 5 to 8 p.m.

BOLTON Pack Horse Hotel, Tuesday, July 20, 5 to 8 p.m.

LIVERPOOL Adelphi Hotel, Wednesday, July 21, 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.

MANCHESTER Midland Hotel, Wednesday, July 21, 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.

PRESTON Bull & Royal Hotel, Thursday, July 22, 5 to 8 p.m.

Alternatively, please write to, or telephone Mr J.G. Hurst, Jr., Staff Partner at Silkhouse Court, Tithenham Street, Liverpool, L2 3LE. 051-236 8314 to arrange an appointment for another day.

Mr W.A. FLORENCE

JACOBSON VAN DEN BERG

and CO. (U.K.) LTD.

25

Kempton card

Chalk jockey is now chalking up winners

The gap which is left by Rodriguez

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 750 million to 850 million. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 900 million by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 950 million by the year 2020. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1 billion by the year 2025. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.1 billion by the year 2030. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.2 billion by the year 2035. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.3 billion by the year 2040. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.4 billion by the year 2045. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.5 billion by the year 2050. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by the year 2055. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.7 billion by the year 2060. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.8 billion by the year 2065. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 1.9 billion by the year 2070. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2 billion by the year 2075. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.1 billion by the year 2080. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.2 billion by the year 2085. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.3 billion by the year 2090. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.4 billion by the year 2095. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to increase to 2.5 billion by the year 2100.

Good June trade figures will help pro-Marketeers

By ANTHONY HARRIS, Economics Editor

Another big rise in exports produced almost unbelievably good trade figures for June. The visible surplus was £39 millions—and if this performance were sustainable there would be a current account surplus of more than £1,000 millions on the year.

Even on the more sober figures for the first half of the year, we have already earned a current account surplus of more than £300 millions. The figures will bring some comfort to both sides in the Common Market debate—but rather more to those in favour of entry.

The surplus we have already earned, let alone the likely surplus for the year (about £600 millions) serves to cut down to manageable size the "burden" of a £300 millions contribution to the Community budget.

Even the rumoured £500 millions Treasury estimate for the total balance of payments cost looks achievable. If this kind of performance is maintained it will not be easy to argue that we cannot go in because of the balance of payments burden.

On the other hand, our trade with the Common Market itself remains lagging. It was the Sterling area and the Americas which led the way among our markets. In the first half of this year Sterling markets—which will be less accessible to us from inside the EEC—spent 11.6 per cent more than in the second half of 1970, and our exports across the Atlantic rose more than 84 per cent.

But our exports to the EEC were only 2 per cent up—a drop once you include price increases. We continue to perform least well in the market we intend to join—and the lagged figure carries right through to June itself.

In June the EEC took 40.4 per cent of our total exports, the same as the figure for the first half of the year—down from 42.2 per cent in the second half of 1970.

The Department of Trade and Industry, which suggested that the May export figures might be "erratically high," has no comment on the still higher June figures. It seems to have accepted the view expressed in the "Guardian" last month that the export performance is no more than what ought to be expected.

The figures for the first half of this year are 94 per cent up on the same period in 1970—or less than 2 per cent in real terms. Even the figures for the last three months, somewhat inflated by late postal deliveries of export statistics, are only 53 per cent up in volume on the year. Against a growth in world trade of 84 per cent, this is hardly too good to be true.

Imports, on the other hand, are undoubtedly below trend, reflecting the recession in the home economy. Nearly all the increase is due to food and oil.

The food imports reflect rising world prices and the oil imports a mixture of stockpiling and the recent expensive settlement with the producing countries.

Other imports, apart from

Jumbo jets, are actually down, and an economic recovery at home would certainly reverse this trend sharply.

However, the visible trade balance now looks strong enough to take the strain. The City rejoiced at the news with a strong rise in share prices; the balance of payments, it judged, would do nothing to make the Chancellor cautious about reflation. Something substantial is now hoped for within a week or two.

Footnotes for number-crunchers: June exports, on a balance of payments basis and seasonally adjusted, reached £778 millions. This includes a £16 millions allowance for under-reporting and compared with £746 millions in April (the month most affected by late postal returns) and £733 millions for May.

Imports on the same basis were £739 millions in June, compared with £730 millions in April and £707 millions in May. This series was less distorted by the postal strike.

The visible trade balance shows a surplus of £39 millions for June, the third month of substantial surplus. Over the first half of this year, recorded trade has swung from a monthly deficit of £24 millions up to March to a surplus of £27 millions in the last three months.

Higher rents but more rebates

continued from page one

insisted tenancy, the whole procedure may take weeks or months," he explained. "If it is a furnished tenancy, people come and go and move very quickly—perhaps in a night." The Government had no proposals for furnished accommodation, but was still working on the problem.

The first salvoes in what will be a bitter and protracted battle were fired by Mr. Anthony Crosland, Shadow Minister for the Environment. Millions of council tenants, he said, "are going to be subject to means tests for the first time and are to face increases in rent of such a character that they won't come at one stroke but at three strokes at least."

In three years rents would rise by £150. He asked the Minister whether he had made a study of the social and economic consequences of such a huge increase in a short period.

Mr. Walker replied that under the last Government 1,350,000 council tenants were obtaining subsidies through social security or rebates, both means-tested. Sir Desmond Plummer, Conservative Leader of the GLC, welcomed the proposals, particularly for rebates for private tenants. The Housebuilders' Federation described them as "a courageous move towards removing anomalies and inequities," and suggested that those who eventually found themselves paying an economic rent for their accommodation should look closely into the question of buying their own homes.

"Home ownership remains the best blue chip of all," the Building Societies Association said. The proposals would bring about a much more realistic approach to the whole subject of subsidies and clear proof of the Government's determination to tackle the housing problem at its roots.

The Director of Shelter, Mr. John Willis, said that the White Paper, in spite of its many merits, failed to live up to two of its objectives—a fairer choice between owning and renting a home, and fairness between citizens in giving and receiving help towards housing costs.

Many householders would remain incapable of supporting the average mortgage for owner occupation. They would remain tenants subject to a means test and, "more sinister," would be awarded property commensurate with an official assessment.

The 500,000 furnished tenants would be conspicuous losers under the proposals. The inception of the scheme could be chaotic and far from equitable.

Only the greatest vigilance and publicity on the part of the local authority will prevent abuses of higher rents, rather than fair rents. Rebates and allowances were more generous than expected.

White Paper report, page 7

STOP PRESS

MAN FOUND DEAD

Body of man found in car near Stone, Staffordshire.

SOLDIER SHOT (See Page One)

Soldier slightly injured in shooting incident in Belfast.



Mr. Graham Skillington (left), the Chief Constable of Belfast, and Major General Sir Harry Tuzo, GOC Northern Ireland, at a press conference yesterday following the death of a British soldier on Monday. Picture by Robert Smithies

Brickbats fly around House

By NORMAN SHRAPNEL, Parliamentary Correspondent

Whether or not Mr. Peter Walker's housing reform speeds the clearing of the slums as effectively as he claimed, it certainly sent the bricks of verbal abuse flying around the Commons yesterday.

It began with a rumble and ended in a crashing row, with Mr. Walker being personally bulldozed by the Leader of the Opposition, and rude words like "spiv" and "twister" being flung at him by infuriated Labour men.

This was sheer escalation, since Mr. Anthony Crosland had confined his immediate response to a dark hunch that the whole exercise was "profoundly reactionary." And these are not usually regarded as fighting words, by even the testiest Tory.

Anyway, Mr. Walker retorted cheerfully enough, there were 24 million tenants in the private sector who would not find it so.

Then the language began to step up as the backbenchers took over. The scheme was grossly devised; it would lead to a substantial rent increase; it amounted to a barbaric and savage attack on the principle of public housing. A national rent rebate scheme, according to Mr. Ray Carter, was simply a case of enabling the poor to keep the poor. At least, one might have thought, this was a slight advance on the guiding principle of modern Toryism as most Labour men see it, which is to enable the poor to keep the rich.

Provoked by all this ingratitude, the Minister was misguided enough to point with some scorn—and, according to Mr. Harold Wilson, with considerable inaccuracy—at Labour's own ideas about housing finance when they were in office. This made Mr. Wilson very angry. So hot did the cross talk get, and so violent the verbal missiles thrown from the Opposition back benches, that the House had to be adjourned.

Mr. Walker had to tell what all the fury was about. He said because they were being accused of having a plan of their own, or not having a plan of their own?

A bit of both, it seemed. Mr. Walker, no slouch when it comes to building a swift point out of almost any available material—said Labour had been "in not coming to the conclusions," while the Tories made up their minds in two months flat. This made them more livid than ever.

Mr. Walker had grossly misrepresented the position with his slick approach. Mr. Wilson explained. Certainly they had pondered the problem, but they had rejected "the facile and reactionary proposal" the Minister had now accepted.

THE WEATHER

AROUND THE WORLD

Reports for the 24 hours ended 6 p.m. yesterday:

AROUND BRITAIN

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Assurance b Heath on EEC regional tall

By our Political Staff

Britain will take part in the negotiations at EEC's embryonic regional policy if the Six make progress on the subject before negotiations for entry are completed, the Prime Minister told Commons yesterday.

He explained to Labour's anti-Marketeers that were only six sentences in the White Paper on policy because the Community was only in the stages of formulating one. A proposal now before the Council of Europe is that development grants of up to 20 per cent should be paid to industrialists who want to invest in the development areas.

It was a plan which met with approval from Mr. Jenkins, Labour's deputy leader, and scepticism from Mr. Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool. Mr. Heffer said that such a scheme would be disastrous for Merseyside and the North-east.

Mr. Heath explained to Mr. Heffer: "The objective of the Community is a reasonable one. It is the same objective as we have with export credit guarantees; that is to stop individual countries trying to outbid each other. This, I believe, would be to our advantage. We have great attraction for firms to invest in this country. I do not see why we should have them outbid by other members of the Community."

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, said last night that the Community's regional policy would involve no surrender of national sovereignty for Britain. He was speaking at a Mansion House dinner in honour of the Queen's judges. He officially climbed off the fence on the European issue and—not greatly to anyone's surprise—came down on the side of entry, believing the choice is between greatness or decline.

Fools' paradise

He mocked "the fools' paradise of a little England," dogged by restrictions, afraid of opportunity and unable to stand up to competition," and challenged critics of entry who claim that it would involve a surrender of sovereignty or of national identity.

The fact is that the Community is composed of independent, proud, vigorous nations with distinct national personalities, separate traditions, their own Heads of State, their own Parliaments, their own armed forces, their own courts of law, and all the armoury of sovereign status.

Our Labour Staff adds: Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Harold Lever, MP, were warned yesterday of the wrath that would flow from the Labour Party if they joined the Conservatives in voting for Europe.

Mr. Alec Kitson, a member of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee, and now number three in the Transport and General Workers' Union, gave the warning at the biennial conference of the TGWU at Scarborough.

He did not name Mr. Jenkins or Mr. Lever but there was no doubting his intentions. "If there are people in the Labour Party—I do not care who they are—who walk into the lobbies and vote with the Government, then they should join the Tory Party because they are Tories themselves."

Pollution the valley

By our Correspondent

Research into the effects of contamination by metals of large areas Swansea and Neath valleys proposed yesterday by a party set up by the Air Pollution Committee.

Air pollution in the Swansea and Neath valleys has been responsible for a number of deaths in the past few years. The Swansea and Neath valleys are the most polluted in the country.

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Pay out less!

Switch all your monthly repayments to a single bank loan

If you've got payments on the car and furniture and TV, perhaps a personal loan as well, it can add up to a really heavy strain. Here's a way to reduce it that's open to any homeowner. Get a single bank loan to pay them all off except your first mortgage. Your monthly payment will be very much lower. These loans are arranged by Financings (Guarantees) Ltd., Britain's leaders in personal finance.

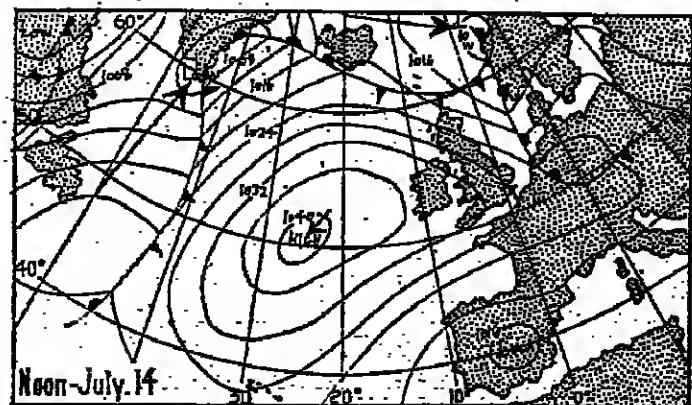
Take this example. Say you owe £600 in outstanding hire purchase and personal loans and you're paying £32 a month. You take a £600 Budget Loan. Pay everything off and your repayments will be only £11 a month. Or have an extra £200 cash to spend now.

Your repayments would still be only £14.50 a month. You have a right to one of these Budget Loans if your house is worth more than the amount outstanding on your mortgage. And you can do what you like with the money. Your loan can be up to 55 times your monthly repayment. Interest is paid only on the reducing balance outstanding. With a Budget Loan Account you will be entitled to a substantial further advance after only nine months' repayments. Sending the coupon below will bring you a booklet explaining the Budget Loan scheme in detail. So do it now.

Financings (GUARANTEES) LIMITED
Charlton House, Kenyon Road, Harrow, Middlesex.
Telephone: 01-204 0941
Please send me my copy of the Budget Loan Account booklet.

Name _____
Address _____

a subsidiary of First National Finance Corporation Ltd.
G/14/7 GROUP ASSETS EXCEED £100 MILLION



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